The SPORTS PINK

Saturday, March 1, 2014

55p

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Daily Echo

NICE AND EASY FOR HOWE'S CHERRIES

Bournemouth 5 Doncaster Rovers 0 – Report: Page 6

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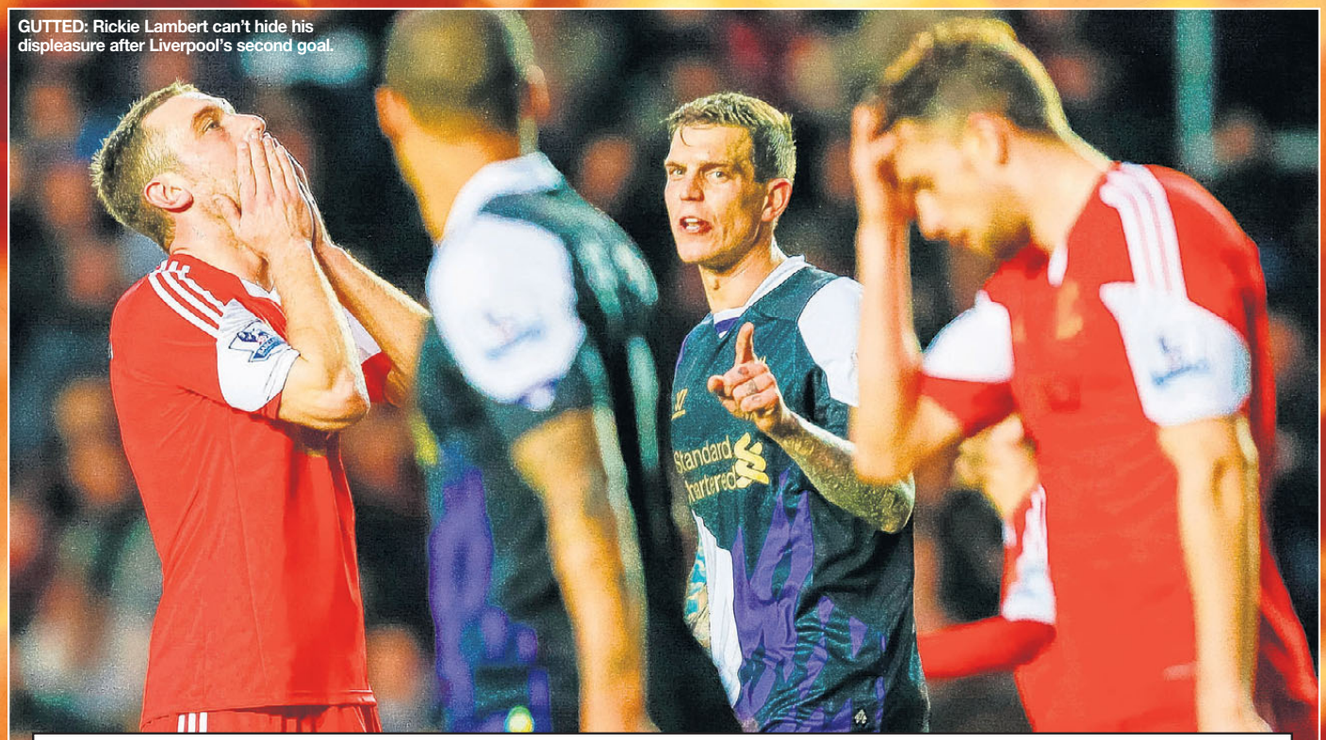
ENGLAND'S DEBT TO THE SAINTS ACADEMY

Where would England be without the St Mary's production line? Pages 10-13

REDS HOT



GUTTED: Rickie Lambert can't hide his displeasure after Liverpool's second goal.

In-form Liverpool too hot for Saints

SOUTHAMPTON 0 LIVERPOOL 3

SAINTS succumbed to their first home defeat to Liverpool in 11 years as they were beaten 3-0 by the Reds at St Mary's.

In a game of multiple chances Luis Suarez, Raheem Sterling and an injury time penalty from Steven Gerrard inflicted defeat upon Mauricio Pochettino's men.

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TERRY PAINE

Saints legend's EXCLUSIVE column

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SAINTS

Memories of Saints v Liverpool

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10 pages of the best coverage

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NON-LEAGUE

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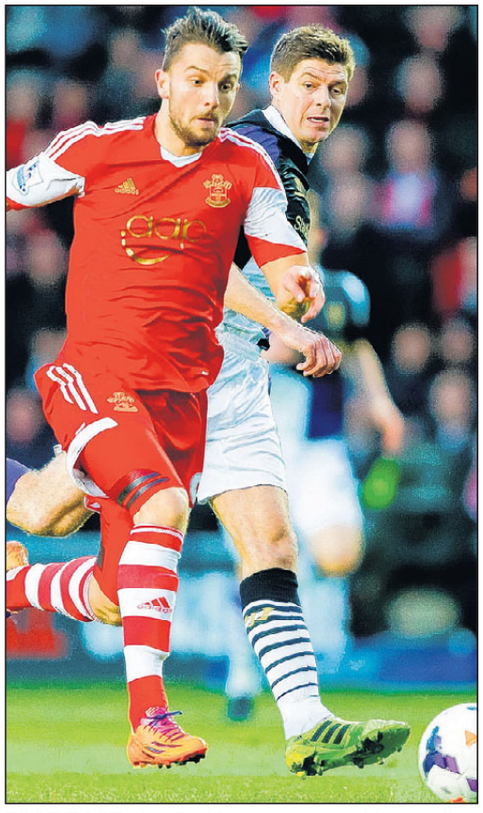
Saints Spotlight

SAINTS 0 LIVERPOOL 3: POCH'S MEN

CLINICAL REDS SAINTS JINX AT



FOOT RACE: Jay Rodriguez gets past Liverpool's Steven Gerrard.

UP AND OVER: Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet punches clear as Rickie Lambert watches on.

SAINTS succumbed to their first home defeat to Liverpool in 11 years as they were beaten 3-0 by the title chasers at St Mary's.

Adam Leitch
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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

In a game of multiple chances Luis Suarez, Raheem Sterling and an injury time penalty from Steven Gerrard inflicted defeat upon Mauricio Pochettino's men.

A win earlier in the day for Newcastle meant Saints slipped four points off of eighth place in the table.

Saints so nearly got picked apart by the dangerous Liverpool attack after just six minutes.

A long ball over the top set Daniel Sturridge away down the right and his pace took him clear.

He got into the area and opted to square the ball to the on running Luis Suarez but Jose Fonte was alert to the danger and just about got a toe to it to turn it wide before the striker could convert.

Jay Rodriguez threatened to burst though four minutes later after Luke Shaw bravely won a header which left him briefly requiring treatment.

The Saints attacking midfielder thrust through the middle but just overran the ball and gave Daniel Agger the chance to clear, albeit the Liverpool man fired into Rodriguez's shins and was happy to see it fly wide.

Saints appealed for a penalty as Adam Lallana went down in the area under a challenge from Jon Flanagan but referee Lee Probert decided it was a fair shoulder barge.

There was no controversy just bad luck as Liverpool took the lead on 16 minutes.

Initially Saints weren't quite quick enough to stop Suarez spinning inside from a right wing throw in and feeding the ball into the feet of Sturridge just outside the area.

As the Liverpool man tried to bring it fully under control Lallana got a foot in and saw the ball hit the legs of Fonte and ricochet into the path of Suarez who was unmarked just inside the area.

He showed his predatory instincts to finish low first time past Artur Boruc who dived to his left but had no chance of reaching the shot into the bottom corner.

Suarez had another sighter from a 20 yard free kick but this time he was off target.

Rickie Lambert's first chance was a very tough one as he attempted to shoot goalwards from Luke Shaw's low left wing cross just inside the area and it went well wide.

Lallana had a golden opportunity to draw Saints level on 32 minutes as Lambert brilliantly chested Rodriguez's right wing cross into the midfielder's path giving him the chance to shoot from the edge of the six yard box.

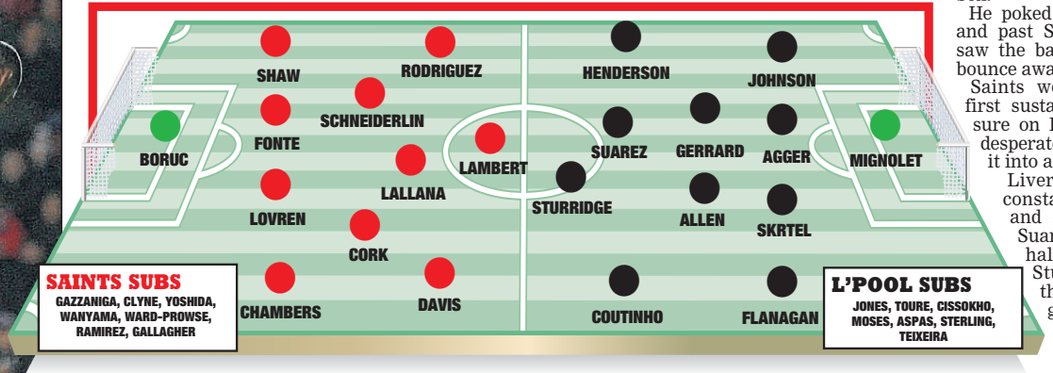
He poked it low across goal and past Simon Mignolet but saw the ball hit the post and bounce away.

Saints were enjoying their first sustained spell of pressure on Liverpool and were desperately trying to convert it into a goal.

Liverpool remained a constant threat though and extended Boruc as Suarez hit a first time half volley from Sturridge's cut back that the Saints keeper got down quickly to his left to save.

Up the other end Morgan Schneiderlin attempted a spectacular control and quick volley on the turn but put his effort over.

Rodriguez came much closer with the final chance of a pulsating first half as Shaw superbly broke down the left and put in a low cross that his teammate fired first time low



TEAM NEWS

SAINTS boss Mauricio Pochettino made just one side to the team who were beaten 3-1 at West Ham for the visit of Liverpool to St Mary's.

Dejan Lovren was back in the team for his first game since getting injured at Sunderland on January 18, with Maya Yoshida, who scored in the 3-1 defeat at West Ham last week, dropping to the bench.

Jos Hooiveld missed out on a place on the bench with an eye injury but Victor Wanyama was fit after recovering from a leg injury.

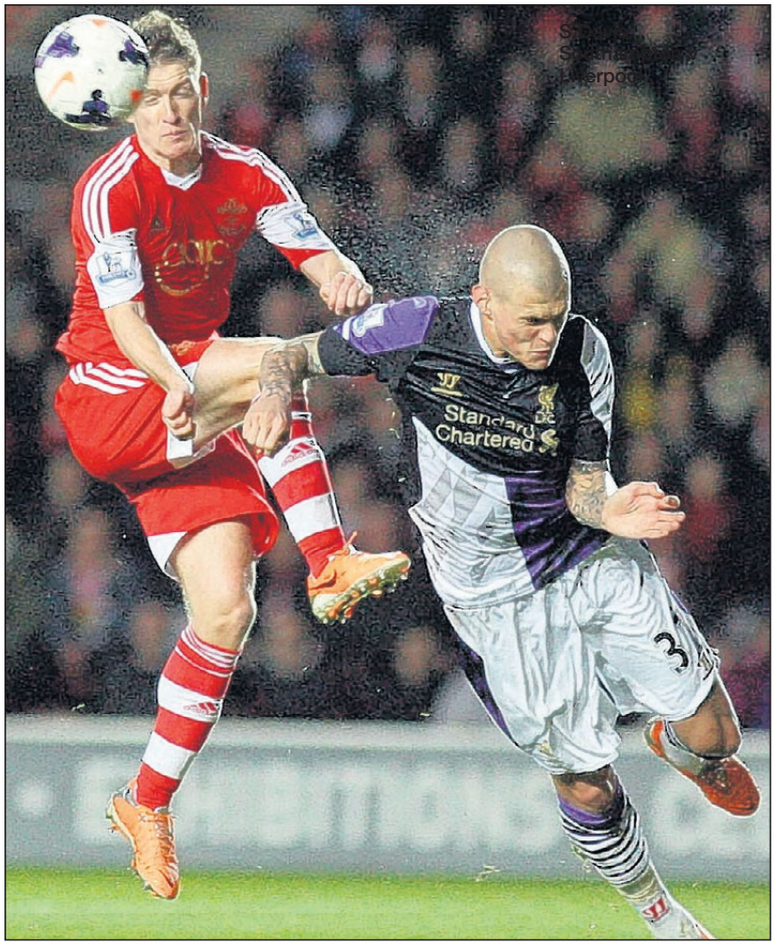
Paulo Gazzaniga was named as the sub keeper rather than Kelvin Davis who had a hamstring problem.

READ THE TERRY PAINE COLUMN ON PAGES 6-7

Saints Spotlight

GIVEN FINISHING LESSON BY TITLE CHASERS

CONQUER ST MARY'S



LEFT: Luis Suarez makes it 1-0.

RIGHT: Steven Davis wins a header.

WATCHING BRIEF: England Manager Roy Hodgson and Katharina Liebherr at St Mary's.

and goalwards from ten yards out.

Mignolet was going the wrong way but somehow got down and just managed to stick out his right hand in time to stop it from going in and quickly recovered to grab the loose ball.

Saints made a half-time change with Gaston Ramirez replacing Steven Davis.

Lallana had the first chance of the second period but his shot from just outside the area was saved with relative ease by Mignolet.

Saints had started the half well and Liverpool responded by bringing on Raheem Stirling for Philippe Coutinho on 57 minutes.

It worked a treat as Sterling scored with his first touch a minute later.

Suarez was again the architect as he intelligently dropped deep and got Dejan Lovren to follow him.

Steven Gerrard's slide rule pass and Suarez's quick turn and dart in behind left the Saints defender for dead and the Liverpool striker had the presence of mind to square when in the area to Sterling who finished low first time from eight yards out for 2-0.

Liverpool had a chance to get another as Suarez again got behind Lovren and knocked the ball to Sturridge. He went round the outside of Boruc but from a tight angle fired across goal and wide.

Jordan Henderson became the first player in the book for a foul on Shaw.

After Suarez had opted to square to Sturridge rather than shoot Henderson had a good chance unmarked from a cut-back 12 yards out but put it over.

Boruc produced a great save from Gerrard on 73 minutes, diving low to his right to just turn wide a stinging drive from 25 yards that skipped up off the turf. He then had to punch a threatening corner off his line to stop it going straight in.

Liverpool were really pushing hard for a third and Suarez got in behind once more moments later but fired across goal and wide with the outside of his right foot.

Saints made a double switch on 77 minutes with Sam Gallagher and Victor Wanyama replacing Lambert and Jack Cork.

Wanyama was the first Saints player booked for a challenge on Suarez.

Liverpool made a second change with five minutes remaining as Iago Aspas came on for Sturridge.

Gerrard was the next in the book for a foul on Lallana.

Schneiderlin had an injury time shot blocked after teeing off from Shaw's driving run down the left and low cross.

There was still time for one more goal but it went to Liverpool.

There were no arguments as referee Probert pointed to the spot as Suarez turned Fonte and was pulled down in the area.

Gerrard stepped up and dispatched the spot kick past Boruc diving to his left and into the top corner with what proved almost the last kick of the game to complete a comprehensive Liverpool win.

ABOVE: Luke Shaw gets in a cross.

READ ADAM RANT ON PAGE 9

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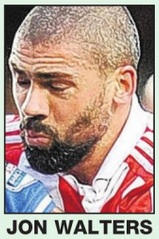
Premiership Spotlight

Gunners suffer title setback



JON WALTERS

ARSENAL'S title challenge suffered a blow as Jon Walters' second-half penalty saw them condemned to a 1-0 defeat at Stoke.

Walters stepped up in the 76th minute to slot home a spot-kick he had won when his flick struck the arm of Laurent Koscielny in the Gunners box.

The result, coupled with Chelsea's win at Fulham, means second-placed Arsenal are now four points adrift of the Blues.

Stoke were certainly good value for their victory, as they claimed another notable scalp for the season – following on from home triumphs against Chelsea and Manchester United – and once again proved to be Arsenal's bogey side.

Since the Potters were promoted to the top-flight in 2008, they have hosted Arsenal seven times and lost only once.

As this game got under way, there was plenty of noise being generated from the stands at the Britannia Stadium, with Potters captain Ryan Shawcross, four years after his tackle left Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey with a broken leg, being booed by a section of away fans and some of their counterparts chanting about Gunners boss Arsene Wenger, who once suggested Stoke employ "rugby" tactics.

On the field, though, things were more serene, the match struggling to spark into life. Walters sent a header wide from a delightful Marko Arnautovic cross around the quarter-hour mark and saw the assistant referees' flag had been raised, before Santi Cazorla advanced to the edge of the box to fire Arsenal's first attempt on goal off-target.

Olivier Giroud failed to make the most of a whipped Kieran Gibbs delivery from the left as he went to meet it with his head, and Asmir Begovic then easily collected a nodded attempt from the France striker.

At the other end, a deflected Steven Nzonzi pass came to Peter Crouch, who shot into the side-netting, and Arsenal's response saw Lukas Podolski lash the ball wide having been fed by Mikel Arteta.

Perhaps as a sign of frustration, some fairly hefty challenges followed, one of which involved Giroud in a sandwich between Marc Wilson and Glenn Whelan. The incident resulted in a Stoke free-kick, although replays appeared to show that Whelan had stood on Giroud's ankle.

Whelan then brought a diving save out of Wojciech Szczesny just prior to the break with a swerving strike from the edge of the box, before Cazorla called Begovic into action by thumping a shot from similar range.

Stoke looked to keep the tempo up in the early stages of the second period.

Nzonzi sent a tame header at Szczesny and Crouch diverted the ball wide with a miscued acrobatic attempt and then stretched to get a harmless boot to a Charlie Adam free-kick that it seemed he would have been better attacking with a header.

Stoke continued to press and after Szczesny dived to turn a glanced Crouch header behind, the corner led to the ball dropping nicely for Cameron, but he could only poke wide.

The Potters were rewarded around ten minutes later when Koscielny was adjudged to have handled the ball and Walters, putting past penalty misses behind him, made no mistake from the spot.

Mesut Ozil flashed a shot across Begovic's goal and his fellow Arsenal substitute Yaya Sanogo then struck over the bar as the Gunners failed to find an equaliser.

OPENER: Chelsea's Andre Schurrle celebrates scoring their first goal of the game during the Barclays Premier League match at Craven Cottage.

SCHURRLE TREBLE IS TOPS FOR CHELSEA

GERMAN midfielder Andre Schurrle netted a second-half hat-trick to keep Chelsea top of the Barclays Premier League with a 3-1 win in the west London derby at Fulham, who remain bottom.

Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho had been concerned a gruelling midweek Champions League trip to Istanbul would leave his players fatigued for the short journey down to Craven Cottage.

However, despite a slow start, the Blues, driven on by brilliant Belgian midfielder Eden Hazard, blew Fulham away with three goals in the space of 16 minutes following the restart to stay clear of Arsenal and Manchester City in the championship race.

For Fulham boss Felix Magath, there remains plenty more hard work ahead if his side are to pull clear of trouble, and had only a consolation goal from John Heitinga to show for their spirited efforts.

It had earlier been a bright start by the home side in some welcome sunshine.

Pajtim Kasami's cross from the left was flicked wide by Clint Dempsey, when a proper contact from the American could well have put the ball in the net.

There was a brief stoppage when Fulham defensive duo Kieran Richardson and Brede Hangeland clashed heads on the half-way line. After some treatment, both men were able to continue.

On 12 minutes, Fulham goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg delayed clearing a deadball, which saw him closed down by Fernando Torres, retained in the starting XI after his midweek goal in Turkey.

The ball ballooned back up off the Chelsea striker and into the penalty area, but Torres could not make the most of the gift, as he miskicked and then eventually sent a scuffed cross-shot wide.

Fulham had to make a change shortly afterwards as captain Hangeland was unable to continue, and replaced by Dan Burn.

On 20 minutes, Richardson got away again down the left and his deep cross picked out Dempsey, but John Terry and Gary Cahill were quick to close the Fulham striker down as he shaped to shoot.

Neither side were able to gain much possession in midfield, with some niggling tackles flying in.

With five minutes to go until half-time, Fulham tried a well-drilled free-kick from 25 yards which saw three players run over the ball before Kasami sent in a low drive, which Petr Cech got down well to save.

Steve Sidwell then drove an angled shot over the crossbar after a deep ball from the right dropped at the back of the six-yard box.

However, it took a fine reaction save from Stekelenburg on the stroke of half-time to keep the scores level when he deflected an angled drive from Torres over the crossbar.

Chelsea were on the offensive again at the start of the second half, as Schurrle saw a curled effort deflected wide, when Oscar was free on the overlap.

The German, though, made no mistake a few moments later when he fired Chelsea ahead on 52 minutes.

Hazard – on his 100th Chelsea appearance – chipped a ball down the right, which Schurrle, signed from Leverkusen in the summer, took in his stride with a superb cushioned header. A darting run saw him surge past Burn and to the edge of the Fulham penalty area, where he coolly slotted the ball under Stekelenburg.

Hazard almost crafted a second with a lovely reverse-foot chip to the far post where Richardson just got there ahead of Torres.

It was, though, 2-0 on 65 minutes, with the Belgian playmaker again the provider as his slide-rule pass split the Fulham defence as Schurrle slotted in his second from 12 yards.

Despite having the game won, Chelsea remained ruthless in attack and Schurrle completed his hat-trick on 68 minutes.

Torres brought down a long ball from the goalkeeper, which he flicked on out to Schurrle, who sprinted clear to the edge of the Fulham area before slamming a low shot past Stekelenburg.

Fulham at least salvaged some pride from the derby when defender Heitinga bundled the ball in from a corner by Lewis Holtby with 16 minutes left, but it was too little too late.

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Southern Daily Echo

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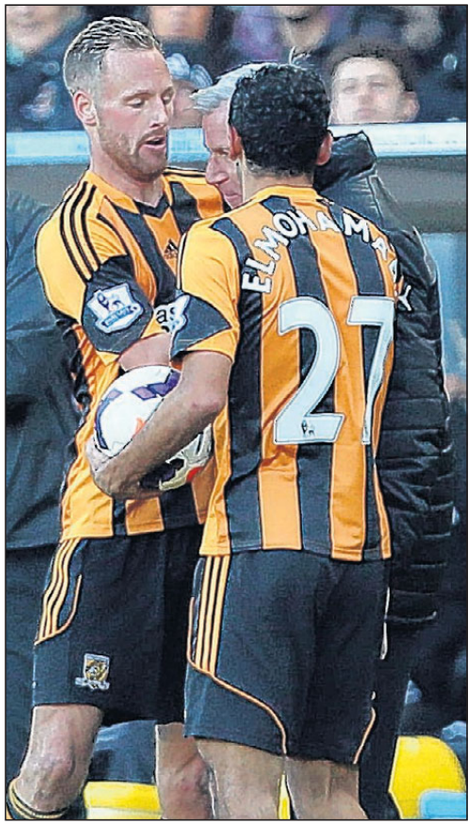
Premiership Spotlight

PARDEW REGRET OVER 'HEADBUTT'



Former Saints boss sent to stands after bust-up with Hull player

NEWCASTLE manager Alan Pardew was quick to express his regret in the wake of the extraordinary flashpoint which overshadowed his team's 4-1 Barclays Premier League win at Hull.

The game's main talking point arrived in the 72nd minute when Hull midfielder David Meyler barged into Pardew as he looked to retrieve the ball for a throw-in.

The former Saints manager, no stranger to touchline altercations, squared up to the former Sunderland midfielder before appearing to move his head in the direction of the Irishman.

Referee Kevin Friend certainly viewed it as a serious incident and sent Pardew to the stands, with the FA sure to take a close look at the altercation in the coming days.

Pardew said afterwards: "It was a heat of the moment thing – I massively regret it."

Pardew, who has had touchline altercations with Paolo di Canio, Saints boss Mauricio Pochettino and Maneul Pellegrini in the last year, continued: "I think I'm going to sit down now because that's two or three incidents I've been involved in. I think I'm going to sit now.

"I didn't meant to do anything aggressive but I moved my head forward and that's enough.

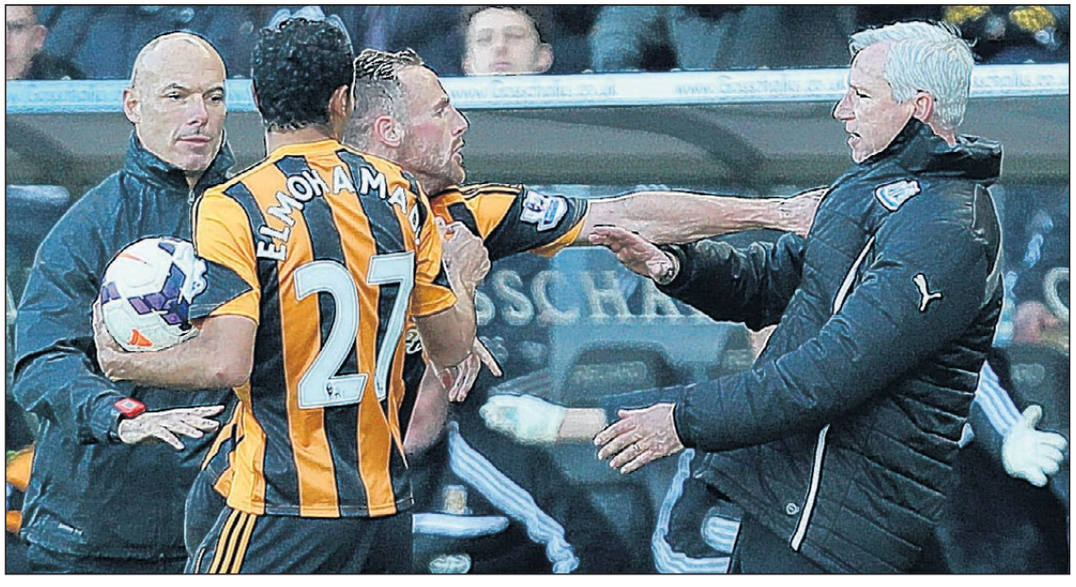
"It's a shame because it took the gloss off a fantastic performance from us. That's really upsetting."

Meanwhile, Ladbrokes announced it has suspended betting on the next Premier League manager to lose his job following the incident.

The company's Alex Donohue said: "We wait to see how Pardew's actions are dealt with.

"Keeping the market open during games often keeps us on our toes but we've never come across circumstances like this to date."

FLASHPOINT: Newcastle United's manager Alan Pardew confronts Hull City's David Meyler, left and below.



WINNER: Everton's Romelu Lukaku.

Sub Lukaku sinks Irons

SUBSTITUTE Romelu Lukaku marked his return from a month on the sidelines through injury with a late winner against West Ham to breathe much-needed life into Everton.

The on-loan Chelsea forward will also be looking for it to give his form a lift as it was his first goal since the end of December which gave his side a 1-0 win.

It was perhaps fitting a striker should decide what was, in the majority, a rather turgid affair on the 34th anniversary of the death of Goodison's greatest goalscorer Dixie Dean.

With his loan spell due to end in three months, and no prospect of a permanent stay so far, Lukaku will never match Dean's record of 383 goals in 433 appearances, but this strike was an important one as the Toffees had failed to score in three of their last four league matches and had won just twice since the turn of the year.

That run has seen them drop well off the pace for Champions League contention but this result will give them a much-needed lift.

Up to the goal being scored, the major talking point was referee Jon Moss' assessment that Gareth Barry had not fouled Kevin Nolan just as the West Ham captain looked to be clean through on goal in the first half.

A red card at that point may have changed the outcome, especially with West Ham having won their last four and with four clean sheets in their last five games, and manager Sam Allardyce was visibly aggrieved at the decision.

Everton struggled to trouble goalkeeper Adrian, with only Steven Naismith's angled strike and Gerard Deulofeu's weaving run through the Hammers' massed ranks to shoot narrowly wide genuinely threatening.

With the hosts coming up against a barrier – both physical and mental – in the final third, it seemed both sides were happier counter-attacking.

But when Carlton Cole flicked on a ball to Nolan, exploiting a space between the centre-back pair of Sylvain Distin and John Stones, deputising for the injured Phil Jagielka, Barry appeared to have both arms around the Hammers captain's midriff before he went to ground on the edge of the area, although Moss waved play on.

The introduction of Andy Carroll, on for an injured Carlton Cole, saw West Ham raise their game as they started to dominate the physical battle.

Steven Pienaar came closest to scoring less than two minutes into the second half when Leighton Baines teed him up for a low shot from the left of the penalty area, but Adrian did enough to tip it on to the post and then recover to claim Deulofeu's rebounded effort.

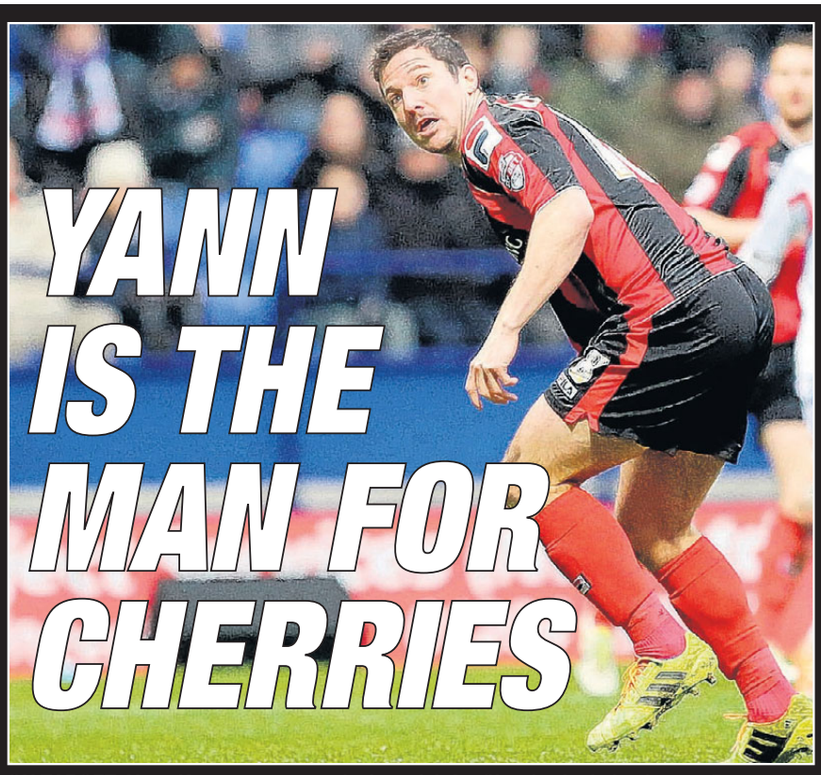
Pienaar did not do so well with Baines' next pass, looping a shot over the crossbar, while Carroll forced Howard to tip over a rasping left-foot effort from distance after Stone's poor touch and drilled over another powerful half-volley.

Lukaku finally made his return on the hour and Aiden McGeady arrived ten minutes later, but they struggled to add any life to Everton up front.

That was, however, until eight minutes from time, when Baines' cut-back picked out Lukaku on the penalty spot and he rammed home left-footed.

Energised, the Belgian was narrowly over with a volley on the turn but he had already done enough.

LATEST PREMIER LEAGUE STANDINGS – SEE BACK PAGE



YANN IS THE MAN FOR CHERRIES

ON TARGET: Yann Kermorgant netted a hat-trick for Cherries in their win over Doncaster.

YANN Kermorgant marked his full Cherries debut with a hat-trick as Eddie Howe's men registered their biggest Championship victory of the season over hapless Doncaster today.

The Frenchman, a £400,000 transfer window signing from Charlton, opened his account for the club by firing through the legs of Rovers goalkeeper Sam Johnston midway through the first half.

Kermorgant's powerful header doubled Cherries' lead on the stroke of half-time before Harry Arter bagged the first of his two goals to make it 3-0 just after the break.

Striker Kermorgant completed his treble with a diving header from a Simon Francis cross before Arter rounded off the scoring eight minutes from time.

Kermorgant was handed his first start as boss Howe made two changes to the Cherries starting line-up with Ryan Fraser, who had been laid low with a bout of bronchitis recently, earning a recall.

Fraser created the first chance for Kermorgant after just three minutes but the frontman headed the Scotsman's cross straight at Rovers goalkeeper Sam Johnstone.

Dean Furman blazed a presentable opportunity wide of the target for Rovers before Fraser's stinging drive, following a neat one-two with Lewis Grabban, was pushed past the post by Johnstone.

Bongani Khumalo's last-ditch saving tackle prevented the lively Fraser from taking aim and Cherries went close to breaking the deadlock from the resultant corner.

But after Andrew Surman had met Harry Arter's delivery with a fierce drive, Rovers goalkeeper Johnstone was well placed to palm his effort over the crossbar.

Kermorgant fired wide following another well-worked corner, the striker latching on to Harte's flag kick after Arter, pictured right, had foxed the Rovers defence with a clever step-over.

And as Cherries continued to create chances, Matt Ritchie's deflected shot whistled past the upright after Kermorgant's header had teed him up.

Cherries were finally rewarded for their litany of goalscoring chances when they made the breakthrough after 26 minutes.

Kermorgant gave his marker the slip and slotted the ball between the legs of Rovers goalkeeper Johnstone after meeting a cross from the left from Harte.

And just seconds later, Cherries were denied a penalty when referee Darren Sheldrake turned down their appeals after Surman had been sent sprawling by Abdoulaye Meite.

Fraser, slipped in by Kermorgant's defence-splitting pass, saw his shot turned past the post by the overworked Johnstone before Cherries doubled their lead on the stroke of half-time.

Kermorgant outjumped his marker at the far post and powered home a header after Simon Francis had picked him out with a deep cross from the right.

Grabban went close to adding a third when he held off Khumalo and let fly with an angled drive, only for Johnstone to beat away the striker's fierce drive.

Arter made no mistake when he extended Cherries' lead five minutes into the second half, the midfielder's venomous strike from the edge of the box fizzing past Johnstone.

And Kermorgant completed his hat-trick with a header from a Francis cross after 73 minutes, the Frenchman diving full length to plant the ball past Johnstone.

Sarcastic cheers from the travelling supporters greeted an effort from Rovers substitute Theo Robinson as the visitors mustered their first shot on target after 75 minutes. Arter made it 5-0 when he swept home the loose ball after Johnstone's weak punch had fallen invitingly for him following another Harte corner in the 82nd minute.

Substitute Tokelo Rantie had a couple of late chances to add to Rovers' misery, the South Africa international seeing a left-foot shot go wide before lifting another opportunity over the crossbar.

Paine'

The Saints legend's EXCLUSIV

HODGSON MAKE BIG

AS England prepare to face Denmark in the first of many friendlies arranged in preparation for this summer's World Cup, the expectation level among the country's fans is at an all-time low.

Champions League hopes hang by a thread, with only Chelsea looking likely to advance to the quarter-finals of Europe's premier club competition.

Enthusiasm over the national side is waning, with many of the impression that the quarter-finals is the best we can hope for, and at worst we'll be heading for home long before that. There is cause for optimism, though, on the national front, with Daniel Sturridge and Wayne Rooney expected to start in attack on Wednesday evening as they look to form a partnership that can fire England deep into the competition in Brazil.

On paper, they have it all – the vision and work rate of Rooney, the dynamism and clinical finishing of Sturridge.

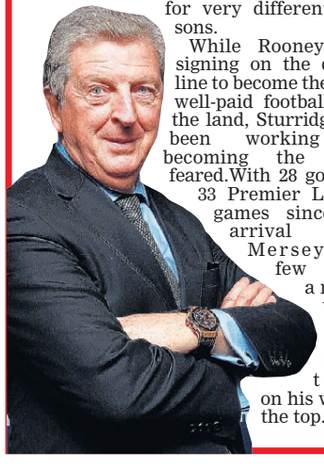
Of course, there is still some way to go before Roy Hodgson signs off on his squad for Brazil; plenty of time for a metatarsal or two to get in the way.

UNSCATHED

However, should they make it there unscathed, the England manager will be able to pair two of the most talked about players in world football at the moment up top.

Perhaps things aren't so bad after all.Both Rooney and Sturridge have been in the news recently, but for very different reasons.

While Rooney was signing on the dotted line to become the most well-paid footballer in the land, Sturridge has been working on becoming the most feared.With 28 goals in 33 Premier League games since his arrival on Merseyside, few could argue that he is well and truly on his way to the top.



Strike pairing of Rooney and Sturridge can be a match for anyone at the World Cup...

STAR QUALITY: Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge is finally realising his potential. LEFT: Roy Hodgson.

It has been a long road for the lad from Birmingham, who has for some time been touted as a future star.

His progress, though, was hindered first at Manchester City, and then at Chelsea.

He was placed well down the pecking order at both clubs, even being shipped

's World

VE column on all things football

NEEDS TO DECISIONS

off on loan to Bolton during his time at Stamford Bridge.

When he did make it onto the pitch, he was deployed out wide; a role that he believed negated his effectiveness. His managers didn't tend to agree. In the end, his aim to become "a very big player in football" while at Chelsea was never achieved, but it was Brendan Rodgers, a former Chelsea coach, who finally gave him what he had so long been crying out for.

Rodgers laid the challenge down, telling him that this may be his last chance to play for a "big club", and Sturridge has responded just as he would've hoped.

Now it's time for England to reap the rewards.His strike partner in the England set-up, on the other hand, has taken a different path to the top.

Rooney has been the next great hope ever since he curled the ball past David Seaman and into the top corner as a teenager.

While many will shirk at the seemingly ludicrous sums of money that have been thrown his way, he remains integral to both Manchester United and England.

He is world-class, and his goal against Crystal Palace showed the technique that £300 000 per week will get you.

At 28, he is in the prime of his career, with Brazil offering him the opportunity to exorcise his major tournament demons.

Hodgson will have breathed a sigh of relief at the conclusion of his contract wranglings.

He did not need Rooney being distracted by suitors while he was trying to win a World Cup.

PERFECT WORLD

The hope is Rooney can now get back to doing what he does best, playing football. But what of the two together? Can Sturridge shrug off the impression that he remains a greedy footballer?

Will Rooney be willing to relinquish his role as England's go-to front man?

In a perfect world, Rooney would just replace Liverpool's Luis Suarez alongside Sturridge and the goals would continue to flow.

Unfortunately, football sometimes isn't so simple.

It is much easier to strike up a partnership with a teammate when training with him every day, as opposed to once or twice every couple months.

Both players were on the scoresheet against Montenegro, in October, but it was Andros Townsend who stole the headlines that day.

With four fixtures to come before England kick-off their World Cup campaign against Italy in the rainforest, there is still time for things to be ignited.

On paper, they seem a perfect foil for each other – but football isn't won on paper.

It's up to Hodgson to figure out a way to make it work, or risk another summer of disappointment.

Martinez has the verdict over Moyes

ASK Evertonians this year if Roberto Martinez, pictured above, has been better than David Moyes, and most would respond with a resounding 'yes'.

They would argue that the football is more attractive, played at a faster tempo, and players are developing at a better rate.

Statistics, however, demonstrate otherwise.

Using the popular site Squawka, which uses information like total goals scored, goals conceded, average pass length and several other indicators to determine a performance score for the team as a whole, we can analyse this year's Everton side and last year's after the same amount of games.

What it actually shows is that, in their first 26 games last season, Everton had a performance score of 6,984, whereas this year's is 6,609 – 375 points lower.

A brief glance at those sorts of numbers highlights a few shocking home truths.

This time last year, Everton had scored a total of 40 goals, whereas this year they are on 37, despite the general opinion that the team is playing better attacking football.

To add to this, last year the side had created 326 goalscoring chances, whereas this year the total is 286.

Before Martinez arrived, many worried that he would bring his teams' penchant for conceding goals with him, yet, somewhat ironically, Everton have only conceded 27 times this year, compared to last season's total of 32.

A staple of the style of football that Martinez has brought to Everton is, of course, the possession game the Spaniard cherishes.

In this case, the average possession statistic is up to 54 per cent from 52 per cent last season, while the average pass accuracy has increased from 80 per cent to 83 per cent.

Somewhat surprising is the nature of these passes.

Under Moyes, right,many critics, such as Sir Alex Ferguson, bitterly claimed that Everton played long-ball football to utilise the talents of midfielder Marouane Fellaini.

However, the statistics for both seasons are shockingly similar.

Under Moyes, Everton had averaged 42 long balls per game by this time, whereas this year they have played 41.

To add to this, the average pass length has remained the same, at 20m, discrediting the long ball debate from seasons past.

Surprisingly, the team has scored two more set-piece goals than this time last year, while retaining their competitive edge that many credited them with – their average 'duels won' percentage remaining at 52 per cent.

The side is also close in the yellow/red card totals.

Many would point out that these types of statistics also discredit the 'overly-physical' tag that had been labelled on the team in the past.

Of course, reading over these statistics demonstrates that the margins are minimal.

While the side has improved on possession and pass accuracy, as they continue to learn Martinez's style of play, they have surprisingly improved defensively too.

However, with this possession-based game, it seems that Everton have lost some of their attacking edge, with the number of goals scored and chances created both in reduced figures from this time last year.

This is where the debate moves beyond the footballing statistics.

The line from those associated with Everton is that Martinez has improved the mood around the entire club, while supporters have been repeatedly impressed by the desire to re-engage with the fanbase through various schemes, the majority of which their Spanish manager has been directly involved in.

As a result, the statistics shown here must be taken with a pinch of salt, but it is my belief that the football and the club have become better under the new manager and, to that degree, the answer to this article's leading question is that Martinez is indeed better for Everton Football Club than Moyes.

Saints Spotlight

SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2013/14

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
AUGUST																
Sat 17	West Brom	(A)	**W 1-0**	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse***	Lallana*	Rodriguez**	**Lambert 1**	Ramirez*	S Davis**	Cork***
Sat 24	**Sunderland**	**(H)**	**D 1-1**	Boruc	Chambers	**Fonte 1**	Lovren	Shaw*	Wanyama	Schneiderlin**	W-Prowse	Lallana***	Rodriguez	Lambert	Clyne*	Osvaldo**	Ramirez***
Tue 27	Barnsley (CCC 2)	(A)	**W 5-1**	K Davis	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Fox	Cork	**S Davis 2**	Isgrove*	**Ramirez 1**	**Rodriguez** 1**	**Mayuka*** 1**	Rowe*	Reed**	Sinclair***
Sat 31	Norwich	(A)	**L 0-1**	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Fox	Wanyama	Schneiderlin**	W-Prowse	Osvaldo***	Lallana*	Lambert	Ramirez*	S Davis**	Rodriguez***
SEPTEMBER																
Sun 15	**West Ham**	**(H)**	**D 0-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw**	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Rodriguez	Osvaldo	Lallana*	Lambert	W-Prowse*	Chambers**	
Sat 21	Liverpool	(A)	**W 1-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	**Lovren 1**	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Rodriguez***	Osvaldo	Lallana**	Lambert*	S Davis*	W-Prowse**	Cork***
Tues 24	**Bristol City (CCC 3)**	**(H)**	**W 2-0**	K Davis	Chambers	Yoshida	**Hooiveld 1**	Fox	Cork	S Davis***	W-Prowse	**Ramirez 1**	Do Prado**	Lee*	Rodriguez*	Reed**	Rowe***
Sat 28	**Crystal Palace**	**(H)**	**W 2-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	**Osvaldo 1**	Lallana***	**Lambert** 1**	W-Prowse*	Rodriguez**	Ramirez***
OCTOBER																
Sat 5	**Swansea**	**(H)**	**W 2-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Fox	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Osvaldo*	**Lallana 1**	Lambert	W-Prowse*	**Rodriguez** 1**	Do Prado***
Sat 19	Man United	(A)	**D 1-1**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama***	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	**Lallana 1**	Rodriguez*	Osvaldo	Lambert*	W-Prowse**	Do Prado***
Sat 26	**Fulham**	**(H)**	**W 2-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse**	**Rodriguez* 1**	Lallana	**Lambert 1**	Do Prado*	Cork**	
NOVEMBER																
Sat 2	Stoke	(A)	**D 1-1**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse	**Rodriguez* 1**	Lallana	Lambert	Ramirez*		
Wed 6	Sunderland (CCC 4)	(A)	**L 1-2**	K Davis	Chambers	**Yoshida 1**	Hooiveld	Fox	Cork	Reed	S Davis**	Ramirez***	Rodriguez	Lee*	W-Prowse*	Lallana**	Gallagher***
Sat 9	**Hull**	**(H)**	**W 4-1**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama*	**Schneiderlin 1**	W-Prowse	**Lallana*** 1**	Rodriguez	**Lambert** 1**	S Davis*	Osvaldo**	Cork***
Sat 23	Arsenal	(A)	**L 0-2**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Hooiveld	Shaw*	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse	Lallana**	Rodriguez	Lambert	S Davis*	Osvaldo**	
DECEMBER																
Sun 1	Chelsea	(A)	**L 1-3**	Boruc*	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin***	W-Prowse**	Lallana	**Rodriguez 1**	Osvaldo	Gazzaniga*	S Davis**	Lambert***
Wed 4	**Aston Villa**	**(H)**	**L 2-3**	Gazzaniga	Clyne***	Yoshida	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama**	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse*	Lallana	**Rodriguez 1**	Lambert	**Osvaldo* 1**	Cork**	Fonte***
Sat 7	**Manchester City**	**(H)**	**D 1-1**	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Cork	S Davis***	W-Prowse	Lallana**	Rodriguez	**Osvaldo* 1**	Lambert*	Ramirez**	Reed***
Sat 14	Newcastle	(A)	**D 1-1**	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Hooiveld	Lovren	Shaw	Cork	S Davis	W-Prowse**	**Rodriguez*** 1**	Osvaldo*	Lambert	Lallana*	Schneiderlin**	Gallagher***
Sat 21	**Tottenham**	**(H)**	**L 2-3**	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Hooiveld	Lovren	Fox***	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	**Lallana 1**	Rodriguez	**Lambert 1**	W-Prowse*	Ramirez**	Gallagher***
Thu 26	Cardiff	(A)	**W 3-0**	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Fonte	Yoshida	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Lallana *	**Rodriguez 2 **	**Lambert 1***	W-Prowse*	Ramirez**	Gallagher***
Sun 29	Everton	(A)	**L 1-2**	K Davis	Chambers***	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Cork*	S Davis	W-Prowse**	Lallana	Rodriguez	Lambert	**Ramirez* 1**	Gallagher**	Clyne***
JANUARY																
Wed 1	**Chelsea**	**(H)**	**L 0-3**	K Davis	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw*	Cork**	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Lallana	Ramirez	Rodriguez	Clyne*	Lambert**	W-Prowse***
Sat 4	**Burnley (FAC 3)**	**(H)**	**W 4-3**	K Davis	**Clyne 1**	Yoshida	Hooiveld***	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Ramirez**	W-Prowse	**Lambert* 1**	**Rodriguez* 1**	**Lallana** 1**	Fonte***
Sat 11	**West Brom**	**(H)**	**W 1-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis	**Lallana** 1**	Rodriguez***	Lambert	Ramirez*	W-Prowse**	Do Prado***
Sat 18	Sunderland	(A)	**D 2-2**	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	**Lovren*** 1**	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Lallana*	**Rodriguez 1**	Lambert	Ramirez* **	W-Prowse**	Yoshida***
Sat 25	**Yeovil (FAC 4)**	**(H)**	**W 2-0**	K Davis	Clyne	Yoshida	Hooiveld	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse***	Lallana**	**Do Prado* 1**	Rodriguez	**Gallagher* 1**	S Davis**	Reed***
Tue 28	**Arsenal**	**(H)**	**D 2-2**	Boruc	Chambers	**Fonte 1**	Yoshida	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	**Lallana 1**	Rodriguez	Gallagher*	W-Prowse*	Do Prado**	
FEBRUARY																
Sat 1	Fulham	(A)	**W 3-0**	Boruc	Chambers**	Fonte	Yoshida	Shaw	Wanyama*	Schneiderlin	S Davis	**Lallana 1**	**Rodriguez*** 1**	**Lambert 1**	Cork*	Clyne**	Gallagher***
Sat 8	**Stoke**	**(H)**	**D 2-2**	Boruc	Clyne*	Fonte	Yoshida	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	**S Davis 1**	Lallana	Rodriguez	**Lambert 1**	Chambers*		
Tue 11	Hull	(A)	**W 1-0**	Boruc	Chambers	**Fonte 1**	Yoshida	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Lallana**	Rodriguez	Lambert*	Do Prado*	W-Prowse**	Wanyama***
Sat 15	Sunderland (FAC 5)	(A)	**L 0-1**	K Davis	Clyne	Yoshida	Hooiveld	Shaw	Wanyama	S Davis	W-Prowse**	Lallana***	Do Prado*	Lambert	Rodriguez*	Schneiderlin**	McQueen***
Sat 22	West Ham	(A)	**W 3-1**	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	**Yoshida 1**	Shaw	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	Lallana	Rodriguez	Lambert***	Ramirez*	W-Prowse**	Gallagher***
MARCH																
Sat 1	**Liverpool**	**(H)**														
Sat 8	Crystal Palace	(A)														
Sat 15	**Norwich**	**(H)**														
Sat 22	Tottenham	(A)														
Sat 29	**Newcastle**	**(H)**														
APRIL																
Sat 5	Manchester City	(A)														
Sat 12	**Cardiff**	**(H)**														
Sat 19	Aston Villa	(A)														
Sat 26	**Everton**	**(H)**														
MAY																
Sat 3	Swansea	(A)														
Sun11	**Man United**	**(H)**														

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	2	0	6	0	292(1)	0
PAULO GAZZANIGA	5(1)	0	0	0	16(1)	0
ARTUR BORUC	20	0	0	0	41	0
NATHANIEL CLYNE	13(4)	0	4	1	51(4)	2
CALUM CHAMBERS	14(2)	0	2	0	16(3)	0
DEJAN LOVREN	20	2	0	0	20	2
JOSE FONTE	24(1)	3	1(1)	0	166(5)	15
JOS HOOIVELD	4	0	5	1	75(3)	9
MAYA YOSHIDA	6(1)	1	6	1	45(2)	2
LUKE SHAW	24(1)	0	3	0	51(6)	0
DANNY FOX	3	0	3	0	58(10)	1
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
JACK CORK	12(6)	0	5	0	113(14)	0
VICTOR WANYAMA	15(1)	0	1	0	16(1)	0
MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	23(1)	1	2(1)	0	192(30)	9
ADAM LALLANA	27(1)	7	2(2)	1	228(26)	58
STEVEN DAVIS	17(5)	2	5(1)	2	45(17)	6
JAMES WARD-PROWSE	12(13)	0	4(1)	0	26(26)	1
SAM MCQUEEN	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
LLOYD ISGROVE	0	0	1	0	1(1)	0
OMAR ROWE	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0
JAKE SINCLAIR	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
GASTON RAMIREZ	1(11)	1	4	2	25(17)	8
GULY DO PRADO	0(6)	0	3	1	80(34)	23

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
RICKIE LAMBERT	22(4)	8	2	1	210(14)	112
JAY RODRIGUEZ	24(2)	10	3(3)	2	52(16)	21
DANI OSVALDO	9(4)	3	0	0	9(4)	3
TADANARI LEE	0	0	2	0	9(5)	2
EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0	0	1	1	3(10)	1
BILLY SHARP	0	0	0	0	12(6)	10
SAM GALLAGHER	1(6)	0	0(2)	1	1(8)	1
HARRISON REED	0(1)	0	1(3)	0	1(4)	0

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Adam Rant

This week's big talking points with **Adam Leitch**

UNDERHAND TACTICS ARE NO HELP TO ANYONE

Chelsea boss right to hit out over taped conversations

BOSS: Chelsea Striker Samuel Eto'o was the subject of boss Jose Mourinho's taped conversation.

JOSE Mourinho can often talk nonsense but he was completely correct to describe the broadcasting of private comments as a disgrace.

The Chelsea manager, pictured right, was having a chat with an acquaintance ahead of an interview but was unaware that the camera was already rolling and recording his conversation.

It was then played out by a French TV channel.

Though what he said didn't look great, it was hardly earth shattering stuff.

That makes it all the worst in many ways as, sadly, actions like this affect all journalists who get tarred with the same brush.

It infuriates Adam Rant that people act like this.

All right, there are many professions that get a bad name thanks to the actions of a handful of people while everybody else is just trying to do an honest day's work.

But journalists are right up there in the public's eyes. They are portrayed as the sort of people who will do anything for a story.

For the vast majority of professionals that is certainly not the case. It is a job the same as any other, and your moral compass is perfectly intact.

When people do things like this though, and what we have seen with phone hacking, it impacts everybody.

Indeed, it has a bigger impact on those operating in the profession than people caught out who may leave it as a result.

Firstly, Mourinho's conversation does appear to clearly have been private and so should never have been considered for broadcast.

Secondly, on a slight tangent, the ability to have off the record conversations with journalists is vital for both sides.

It allows those in the spotlight to get their point across and impart information that they may not wish to do so on the record.

It also allows journalists to get stories and ensure that the facts behind them are correct.

It is part of normal, everyday business.

Few in the public probably actually realise how many stories they consume in a day that are complied like that.

That it is off the record is a matter of trust between the person speaking and the journalist and is something which takes a long time to build up but seconds to destroy.

The problem with things like what happened with Mourinho this week is that it undermines all journalists. All managers will suddenly go a little coyer as a result, even with people they know deep down they can rely upon to be fair.

Ultimately, that only impacts upon the public who consume the news in whatever format, as it is the stories they will read, see or hear that are compromised as a result.

You don't want to end up in the ridiculous situation that you see abroad where celebrities cover their mouths when they are chatting to somebody next to them in case it gets picked up or lip read by somebody with nothing better to do.

It really is such a sad state of affairs.

Adam Rant despairs that people in his profession can do such things.

One cheap moment impacts on so many others who are trying to do an honest job. Thanks very much.

The future is unpredictable

SOMETIMES as a football chairman you make a controversial decision that looks like a stroke of genius, other times you look like a fool.

Just over a year ago Nicola Cortese sacked Nigel Adkins, who had delivered back-to-back promotions and, after a shaky start, was on course to keep Saints in the Premier League.

He replaced him with Mauricio Pochettino, a manager with no experience of English football, that could barely speak the language and liked to play a high tempo, pressing style of football.

Last December, West Brom chairman Jeremy Peace took the decision to sack Steve Clarke, right, who had guided Albion to a superb eighth place finish in the Premier League and, despite a less impressive season this time out, appeared to be steering his club towards a midtable finish.

He was replaced the following month by Pepe Mel, a manager with no experience of English football, that could barely speak the language and liked to play a high tempo, pressing style of football.

To say those two decisions have produced opposite results would be something of an understatement.

Pochettino has delivered to Saints and the move is now hailed as a brilliant masterstroke, rather than the madness that many people felt it was at the time.

Mel has gone the other way, and after six games there is already talk that his days at West Brom might be numbered.

It just goes to show the fine line that is constantly being trodden at football clubs.

What works for one might not for another.

Moyes counting down the days

IT would be no surprise if there was a big calendar in David Moyes' kitchen where he crosses off every passing day on a countdown until the end of the season.

If there is one football manager in desperate need of the respite of the off season it is him.

Defeat for Manchester United in the Champions League this week was just the latest in a long line of misery.

The squad overhaul cannot come soon enough and Moyes, left, himself must be looking forward to the pressure releasing a little.

He is under such scrutiny that failure and the fear of more failure is starting become a self-fulfilling prophecy at Old Trafford.

Poor Amir has missed his shot

AMIR Khan's career looks like it is in a bit of a mess after he was overlooked for a fight with Floyd Mayweather.

Khan has literally put everything on hold to get the fight against Mayweather, even turning down a clash with Devon Alexander, which might have got his fighting life back on track, to try and secure it.

This week Mayweather announced his next opponent will be Marcos Maidana rather than Khan. It is a bitter blow for the Bolton fighter, right, and it's hard to not have a shred of sympathy for him.

He now has no title, no high profile fight in the diary and a list of opportunities that have passed him by.

Saints Spotlight

Did You Know?

England senior squad (v Denmark, Wembley, March 5)

Goalkeepers: Fraser Forster (Celtic), Ben Foster (West Bromwich Albion), Joe Hart (Manchester City), John Ruddy(Norwich City).
Defenders: Leighton Baines (Everton), Gary Cahill (Chelsea), Steven Caulker (Cardiff City), Ashley Cole (Chelsea), Glen Johnson (Liverpool), Luke Shaw (SAINTS), Chris Smalling (Manchester United), Kyle Walker (Tottenham).
Midfielders: Ross Barkley (Everton), Michael Carrick (Man United), Tom Cleverley (Man United), Steven Gerrard (Liverpool), Jordan Henderson (Liverpool), Adam Lallana (SAINTS), Frank Lampard (Chelsea), James Milner (Man City), Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal), Raheem Sterling (Liverpool), Andros Townsend (Tottenham), Jack Wilshere (Arsenal).
Forwards: Jermain Defoe (Toronto FC), Rickie Lambert (SAINTS), Jay Rodriguez (SAINTS), Wayne Rooney (Man United), Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool), Daniel Welbeck (Man United

England U21 squad (v Wales, Derby, March 5)

Goalkeepers: Jonathan Bond (Watford), Jack Butland (Leeds, on loan from Stoke City), Sam Johnstone (Doncaster, on loan from Manchester United).
Defenders: Carl Jenkinson (Arsenal), Ezekiel Fryers (Tottenham), Michael Keane (Man United), Jamaal Lascelles (Notm Forest), Liam Moore (Leicester City), Jack Robinson (Blackpool, on loan from Liverpool), John Stones (Everton).
Midfielders: Tom Carroll (QPR, on loan from Tottenham), Nathaniel Chalobah (Middlesbrough, on loan from Chelsea), Will Hughes (Derby), Ravel Morrison (QPR, on loan from West Ham United), James Ward-Prowse (SAINTS), Thomas Ince (Crystal Palace, on loan from Blackpool), Jesse Lingard (Brighton, on loan from Man United), Nathan Redmond (Norwich City), Wilfried Zaha (Cardiff City, on loan from Man United).
Forwards: Patrick Bamford (Derby, on loan from Chelsea), Saido Berahino (WBA), Harry Kane (Tottenham), Danny Ings (Burnley).

England U19 squad (v Turkey, Chester, March 5)

Goalkeepers: Mitchell Beeney (Chelsea), Christian Walton (Brighton).
Defenders: Calum Chambers (SAINTS), Shay Facey (Man City), Ola Aina (Chelsea), Leo Chambers (West Ham United), Matt Targett (SAINTS), Isaac Hayden (Arsenal).
Midfielders: Alex Mowatt (Leeds United), John Swift (Chelsea), Lewis Baker (Chelsea), Jordon Ibe (Birmingham City, on loan from Liverpool), Harrison Reed (SAINTS), Callum Robinson (Aston Villa).
Forwards: Josh Murphy (Norwich City), Sam Gallagher (SAINTS), James Wilson (Manchester United).

SAINTS PRIDE AHEAD

Simon Carter
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SPORTS EDITOR

AN amazing NINE Saints players could be turning out for England next Wednesday.

Luke Shaw, Rickie Lambert, Jay Rodriguez and Adam Lallana will all be hoping to feature for Roy Hodgson's senior side in the Wembley friendly against Denmark.

James Ward-Prowse will be turning out for England's under-21s against Wales, who could well include his St Mary's colleague Lloyd Isgrove.

And Calum Chambers will skipper an England under-19 side against Turkey at Chester that could include three other Saints – Sam Gallagher, Matt Targett and Harrison Reed.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the nine players' England international backgrounds (or, in some cases, lack of them).

LUKE SHAW

Shaw made his England under-16 debut just over three years ago, in a 0-0 draw in Slovenia in February 2011.

Of the 18 players used by England boss Kenny Swain that day, only one other – apart from Shaw – has gone on to play in the Premier League.

But while Shaw was making his 50th top flight appearance against Liverpool this weekend, Chuba Akpom has made just one solitary sub appearance for Arsenal.

Of the other 16 players, remarkably only three have gone on to make a senior competitive appearance in the subsequent three years - further underlining the remarkable strides Shaw has made.

West Ham's Leo Chambers has made three Carling Cup starts, while Crystal Palace's Ryan Inniss has made three loan starts for Cheltenham (2) and Gillingham (1) this season.

The other player with senior experience has only broken into his side's first team this year.

Captain of England when Shaw made his U16 debut, Diego Poyet, above, has appeared in five of Charlton's league and cup matches in 2014.

The son of current Sunderland boss Gus, Diego is eligible to play for his dad's home country of Uruguay.

But he has chosen to nail his international colours to the mast of the country where he has spent most of his life.

Shaw played six times for the U16s, scoring once – in the first minute of a 4-0 victory over Uruguay in April 2011.

The left back then made his England U17s debut in a 1-0 victory over Portugal at Northampton's Sixfields in August 2011.

Among his colleagues that day were Devante Cole – son of former Manchester United and Newcastle striker Andrew – and John Swift.

Portsmouth-born Swift has been associated with Chelsea since he was 14, but also received regular coaching at Southampton's

FLASHBACK: Luke Shaw playing for England U17s in 2011 and, below left, in action for the U21s earlier this season.

St Mary's produces a steady stream of internationals

SEE THURSDAY'S DAILY ECHO TO READ HOW SAINTS STARS GOT ON

Saints Spotlight

OF BIG DAY FOR NINE

ENGLAND CALLS: James Ward-Prowse, right, Rickie Lambert, below, and Calum Chambers, inset below right.

Elite Training Centre base prior to signing his first professional contract with the Blues in 2012.

Shaw went on to make eight appearances for the U17s, his last game coming in March 2012 when England lost 4-0 to Spain.

Shaw's St Mary's colleague Calum Chambers also started that game, as did Derby's Will Hughes.

Hughes has even more first team experience than Shaw, having played almost 70 league games for the Rams and is just a few months younger.

As he had done for the U16s, Shaw also managed to score for the U17s.

He netted direct from a free kick in a 5-0 European Championship qualifying win against Latvia in October 2011.

His two goals for England are the only ones of his career so far, as he is still waiting for his first Saints one after 55 appearances.

Shaw was fast-tracked into the England U21 squad last season, having never played for the U19s at all.

Frustratingly, he had to pull out of four squads through injury before finally making his U21 debut against Moldova last September.

Shaw subsequently played in a 1-1 draw in Finland and in the 3-0 win against the same opponents at Reading.

There he again showed his attacking instincts, firing in a shot which was parried for West Bromwich Albion's Saido Berahino to score one of his two goals.

Shaw again had to pull out of the squad through injury when the U21s last played, a 9-0 destruction of San Marino last November was fellow Saint James Ward-Prowse was among the scorers.

ADAM LALLANA

Made a goalscoring debut for England when he netted for the U18s in a 2-1 win at Slovenia in April 2006.

It was a memorable moment indeed for the midfielder as the game was played at Bournemouth's Dean Court in front of Lallana's family and friends.

Lallana was attached to the Cherries' youth academy before joining Saints.

Lallana went on to make one appearance for both England's U19s and U21s prior to making his senior debut against Chile at Wembley last November.

He did enough to warrant Hodgson giving him another chance against Germany a few days later, and again Lallana was among a handful to enhance their reputation.

JAY RODRIGUEZ

Saints' top scorer this season has the chance to win his second senior cap against Denmark.

Despite failing to impress on his debut against Chile last November, Rodriguez's subsequent performances for Saints have kept him in the forefront of Hodgson's mind.

Prior to playing against Chile, Rodriguez had won just a single England U21 cap, playing as a sub against Italy in 2011 during his time at Burnley.

RICKIE LAMBERT

Had never won England honours at any age group level prior to making a sensational senior debut against Scotland last August.

Called into action as a second half sub, Lambert headed what proved to be England's winner with his first touch in international football.

The Saints talisman, who turned 32 last month, then scored against Moldova in a World Cup qualifier on his first competitive outing for his country.

Has since won two more caps, against Ukraine and Germany.

JAMES WARD-PROWSE

The midfielder made his England U17 debut in August 2010 when he was still a few months short of his 16th birthday.

The last of his seven caps at the age group came the following February.

After making his Saints debut in a League Cup tie at Crystal Palace in November 2011, Ward-Prowse was handed his England U19 debut the following September.

He went on to win four caps for Noel Blake's side, his last coming against Turkey a year ago this month.

His impressive form for Saints in the Premier League last season when him a call up to Peter Taylor's squad for last summer's World Under-20 Cup.

Though England failed to win any of their three group games, Ward-Prowse was one of only a handful of players to enhance their reputation at the tournament.

As a result, he was promoted to the U21 squad, making his debut against Moldova last September in the same game that saw Luke Shaw capped at the age group for the first time.

Ward-Prowse has been an ever present in the six games England have played this season.

He has also scored twice, his first goals for his country.

Both were direct from free-kicks, earning him comparisons with David Beckham.

Continued on page 12

Fletcher's return is a boost for Scotland

SCOTT Brown believes Darren Fletcher's return to the Scotland scene is a "huge" boost to their Euro 2016 qualifying hopes.

Brown has been Scotland captain under Gordon Strachan over the past 12 months but he could be displaced now that Fletcher is back from long-term illness.

However, Brown is more interested in Fletcher helping Scotland work towards the European Championship finals in France than concerning himself with who will wear the armband in next Wednesday's friendly in Poland.

"I'm not really too sure what's happening, I've not spoken to the gaffer or Darren himself," Brown, pictured below, said. "But it's great Darren is back, it's going to help us push for that second or third spot.

"It's not for me to decide. But the main thing is Darren is back in the squad and looking forward to the Euros.

"It's huge. He plays for Man United, one of the biggest teams in the world. When he was fit he was playing week in, week out, so it shows what a quality player he is."

The Warsaw clash has taken on new significance after Scotland were drawn against the Poles in the qualifiers, alongside Germany, the Republic of Ireland and Georgia. Brown believes Scotland have a good chance of getting through that group, either as the second-placed team or through the play-offs.

"We are an up-and-coming team," the Celtic midfielder said. "We have played really well in the last six or seven games and if we can keep that spirit in the dressing room, we've got a great chance.

"It's going to be hard. Germany are going to be favourites but the other three or four pushing for second and third place is going to help, and the extra place will help as well."

Brown was launching Scotland's new away kit, which is pink and yellow stripes on a white shirt.

"It's lovely," he said. "It brings out my eyes so it's really nice."

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH FOOTBALL ALL WEEK IN THE DAILY ECHO

Saints Spotlight

Call-up for ex-Saint Reeves

NORTHERN Ireland manager Michael O'Neill is hoping to benefit from Southampton's famed production line after calling up former Saints midfielder Ben Reeves.

The likes of Gareth Bale, Theo Walcott, Adam Lallana and Luke Shaw have helped the south-coast club develop a reputation as one of the English game's finest talent schools, and Reeves started his career at St Mary's.

The 22-year-old left for MK Dons in the summer after a handful of first-team appearances, but has quickly settled with 10 goals in 31 matches this season.

That form has earned him a place in the Northern Ireland squad that faces Cyprus in a friendly on March 5, and O'Neill is pleased to have him on board.

"Ben is a player I've known was eligible, through his grandmother, for about 12 months or so, since he was at Southampton," O'Neill said.

"He struggled to make the breakthrough there into the big time, but they are such a good grounding for youngsters and their academy is recognised for the quality players it is producing.

"Ben is rebuilding at MK Dons now, playing well and scoring goals from midfield.

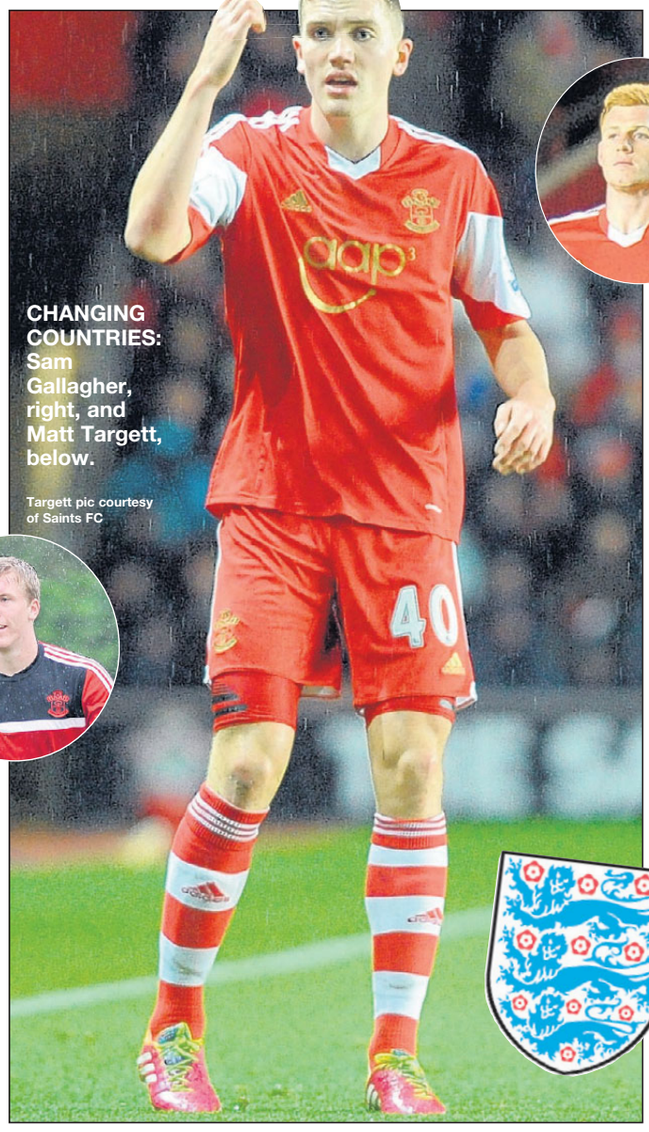
"I've been monitoring him closely for three or four months and he's had some really good games in that time. I went to meet him personally and he's decided to throw his hat in with Northern Ireland, which is good news."

Reeves is part of a 22-man squad headed for Nicosia, but key men such as Jonny Evans (injured), Chris Baird (unattached) and Aaron Hughes (personal reasons) are absent.

All three started together in defence in the side's last match – a 1-0 defeat in Turkey last November - but it is the area of the pitch where O'Neill is best covered.

"There's Gareth McAuley and Craig Cathcart, who's played a lot under me. Alex Bruce hasn't played that much but he's fit and playing now for Hull and we have Rory McArdle too," O'Neill said.

"We may have to have a little versatility, but it gives others opportunities."



CHANGING COUNTRIES: Sam Gallagher, right, and Matt Targett, below.

Targett pic courtesy of Saints FC

NINE REASONS ENGLAND ARE IN SAINTS' DEBT

Ward-Prowse netted his first England goal in a 5-0 win against Lithuania at Ipswich's Portman Road last October.

The following month he repeated the feat in a 9-0 rout of San Marino - his 25-yard effort putting Gareth Southgate's starlets 4-0 ahead after only 24 minutes.

It was the biggest win in the European U21 Championship since the tournament started in the year Saints won the FA Cup.

SAM GALLAGHER

Gallagher has snubbed Scotland's attempts to keep him involved in their international line-up.

The 18-year-old Saints striker, who scored his first goal for the club in January's FA Cup win against Yeovil, made his Scottish U19 debut as a second half sub against Iceland at Stirling last September.

If that game had been a competitive match, Gallagher – English born but with Scottish parentage – would not have been allowed to change allegiance and represent England.

Scottish FA performance director Mark Wotte, the former Saints boss, and Under-19s coach Ricky Sbragia – who introduced Devon-born Gallagher into his youth set-up two years ago – had been hopeful Gallagher would stay with the Scots.

Sbragia and Gallagher spoke a few days after Gallagher had made an impressive first Premier League start against Arsenal at St Mary's in January.

At the time Sbragia was confident Gallagher could step up to Billy Stark's Under-21 side when the Scots face Hungary at Tannadice next Wednesday.

Sadly for him, though, Gallagher will be making his England debut against Turkey at Chester instead.

Back in November, Gallagher gave no impression of being unsettled with his choice of nationality ahead of a Scotland get-together.

He said at the time: "I'm happy with Scotland. I would just like to kick on and try to work my way up the age groups there."

His thoughts have since changed, and it's a case of deja vu for the Scots.

The next player explains why ...

MATT TARGETT

Gallagher's Saints colleague has also decided in recent months to choose an international career with England rather than the Scots.

Targett started the Scotland under-19 game against Iceland last September that saw Gallagher introduced in the second half.

A few weeks later, the central defender was making his England U19 debut in a 4-1 friendly victory in Hungary alongside Saints colleague Calum Chambers.

Targett is still waiting to make his competitive Saints debut.

CALUM CHAMBERS

Now established as a right back in the Saints first team, it was as a winger that Chambers made his England U17 debut in February 2012 in the Algarve tournament.

He scored in his second game, a 2-2 draw against Holland, and also in his third, a 2-1 victory against France that ensured England won the four-team tournament.

Chambers then made it three goals in his first four U17 appearances, bagging the only goal of a European Championship qualifying group tie against Ukraine.

After making six appearances for John Peacock's side, Chambers was promoted into Noel Blake's U19s set-up.

He has been a regular for the last couple of years, and will be aiming to win his 20th U20 cap against Turkey at Chester next Wednesday.

After moving back into defence, Chambers has lost most of his goalscoring prowess for his country - but still has one goal to his name.

He has been chosen as captain by former Pompey defender Blake on his last handful of outings.

Speaking last November, he said Saints' increasing amount of England internationals was acting as a spur to him.

"It's an amazing time at the moment," he admitted. "We've got three players in the England senior squad, two in the Under-21s and obviously a couple here with the U19s – you couldn't get much better than that to be honest – and in the league we're flying at the moment as well.

"Seeing those guys doing so well definitely motivates players at my age. I'm really pleased for Jay [Rodriguez] and Adam [Lallana] – they deserve it.

"Also seeing Luke [Shaw] and James [Ward-Prowse] doing so well in the Under-21s is fantastic.

"It's an inspiration and a motivation seeing first-hand that the path from development teams to senior squad is there.

"Obviously it makes it more challenging for me personally, but that's definitely a good thing.

"Training has become a lot more intense because everyone is on such a high at the moment.

I like a challenge."

HARRISON REED

The midfielder, who turned 19 in January, has won comparisons with Paul Scholes both due to his ginger hair and his style of play.

Reed, inset above, has made one start for Saints this season, playing the whole 90 minutes of the League Cup loss at Sunderland last November.

He has also made three late sub appearances in cup ties against Barnsley, Bristol City and Sunderland.

And it was as an 89th minute sub that he made his Premier League debut at hometo Manchester City last December.

Reed will be making his England international debut if he plays against Turkey next Wednesday, having never appeared at any level before.

Even with such brief playing time at Saints under his belt, it seems that national bosses trust Saints' academy structure implicitly.

NATHANIEL CLYNE

Even though he was not one of the nine Saints players called up to play for England next week, the right back cannot be far from Hodgson's mind.

The Londoner was still at Crystal Palace when he made his England U19 debut against Russia in September 2009.

In what was Noel Blake's first game in charge, he was one of 12 debutants in England's 2-1 win.

Ex-Saint Oscar Gobern was among Clyne's colleagues that night, as were one-time St Mary's loanee Jacob Mellis and ex-Saints academy striker Nile Ranger.

Ranger, now at Swindon Town, is currently in the news as he is defending himself in a crown court case after being charged with rape.

Clyne went on to win nine England U19 caps, his last appearance coming in July 2010.

The right back then won eight U21 caps, making his debut in November 2011 and winning his last cap against Israel last June.

That was during England's poor European Championship Finals campaign, where they were knocked out at the group stage having failed to win any of their three games.

Manager Stuart Pearce left his post shortly after, while Clyne's career at that age group finished due to his age.

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Premiership Spotlight

GUS'S NEXT KISS COULD BE ON CUP

GUS Poyet has challenged his Sunderland players to make themselves the happiest in England after leading them from rock bottom.

The 46-year-old Uruguayan has his heart set on completing a remarkable journey when he sends his team into battle with Manchester City at Wembley on Sunday with a first major trophy in 41 years up for grabs.

It is a scenario he freely admits he could never have imagined on October 8 last year when he succeeded Paolo Di Canio at the helm with the Black Cats in disarray.

Since then, the man who guided Brighton to the League 1 title in 2010/11 at Saints' expense has masterminded wins that have dumped Saints out of both the League Cup and the FA Cup.

Asked what his emotions will be as he leads his players out below the famous arch, Poyet said: "It's going to be special, firstly because I was not expecting this in my first season here, and secondly because everything was very, very dark and sad when we got here.

"Now we are 90 minutes away - or 120 - from being the happiest people in England.

"Forget about the rest, in the cup especially we have been a team that was difficult to play against. We have beaten top teams to have a chance to be in the final."

Sunderland had collected just a single Barclays Premier League point from their opening seven games – from a 1-1 draw at St Mary's in August – when Poyet first walked on to the training pitch at the Academy of Light, and dreams of cup glory could hardly have been further from the new head coach's mind.

He said: "If in my press conference you had asked me about the cup, I would have said, 'Oh come on, stop it, I'm not talking about the cup. There is only one thing to talk about and that is the Barclays Premier League'.

"But now we are here and now it's the opposite. Now if you asked every manager in England if they would like to be where we are, they would say to you, 'Yes' because you have got a chance to win something.

EMBRACING THE BIG TIME: Gus Poyet and Mauricio Pochettino before the recent FA Cup tie.

"We need to make sure that we do everything possible to take this opportunity.

"That's the only thing I can ask of my players, everything possible."

The Black Cats remain firmly entrenched in a battle for top-flight survival, but it one they can forget for a few days at least as they concentrate on the task of upsetting the odds which will be heavily stacked against them.

To do so, they will have to get the better of a City side packed with world stars.

However, with the likes of John O'Shea and Wes Brown, who became accustomed to winning trophies at former club Manchester United, and Sebastian Larsson, Craig Gardner and Ki Sung-yueng, League Cup winners in the recent past, among the red and white rar at least has some ol at his disposal.

The South American, of course, took part in many big games during his own playing career.

He said: "Me, I was the type of player that normally before the games, I was not too nervous. I was terrible after the games, terrible.

"Winning or losing, I kept playing the game, kept kicking people in bed the night after.

"But I remember the FA Cup with Chelsea. When you walk into Wembley and the fans, every single one for and against, they are shouting and making an incredible noise, you feel the nerves.

"But as soon as the ball starts rolling and you make the first few passes, normally you play the game.

"You close out the surroundings and you just play the game."

TODAY'S PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS ARE ON PAGE 48

ROUTE TO THE LEAGUE CUP FINAL

MANCHESTER CITY

3rd rd: WIGAN (H) 5-0
City began their campaign with a repeat of the 2013 FA Cup final - and the result was vastly different. Manuel Pellegrini made 10 changes after victory over Manchester United two days earlier but there was little disruption as they eased through with Stevan Jovetic's first two goals for the club, an Edin Dzeko effort, a fine Yaya Toure free-kick and a late Jesus Navas strike.

4th rd: NEWCASTLE (A) 2-0 AET
Alvaro Negredo and Dzeko scored in extra time as City saw off Newcastle in a lacklustre tie at St James' Park. City goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon had been the centre of attention before the game after a number of errors by regular first-choice Joe Hart. The Romanian made good saves from Shola Ameobi and Papiss Cisse in what proved the start of a run in the side.

QF: LEICESTER (A) 3-1
Hart was back in for the last-eight clash at the King Power Stadium, which City won comfortably enough without being at their fluent best. Aleksandar Kolarov opened the scoring with a powerful free-kick before Dzeko added another two. Lloyd Dyer claimed a consolation for the Championship hosts.

SF 1st leg WEST HAM (H) 6-0
City all but secured their place in the final as they demolished beleaguered West Ham at the Etihad Stadium. Negredo netted a hat-trick and Dzeko helped himself to another two goals while Toure also got on the scoresheet.

2nd leg WEST HAM (A) 3-0 (agg: 9-0)
The job was effectively done in the first leg but City had no intention of easing up as they travelled to Upton Park. Negredo scored another two, either side of a goal for his prolific partner Sergio Aguero, in another comfortable win for Pellegrini's men.

SUNDERLAND

2nd rd: MK DONS (H) 4-2
Sunderland came with 12 minutes of falling at the first hurdle as they trailed 2-0 the League One opposition at the Stadium of Light, thanks to Patrick Bamford and Izale McLeod. However, Jozy Altidore's first goal for the club, a double from sub Connor Wickham and Adam Johnson's late strike completed a turnaround and handed then manager Paolo Di Canio his only victory of the season.

3rd rd: PETERBOROUGH (H) 2-0
With Kevin Ball acting as caretaker manager, the Black Cats made light of the challenge offered by League One Posh as goals from Emanuele Giaccherini and Valentin Roberge either side of half-time saw them through.

4th rd: SAINTS (H) 2-1
New manager Gus Poyet had to wait only four games for his chance to guide Sunderland into the quarter-finals as Phil Bardsley and Sebastian Larsson struck to make Maya Yoshida's late effort count for nothing.

QF CHELSEA (H) 2-1 AET
Frank Lampard's goal took Jose Mourinho's men to within two minutes of the quarter-finals, but Fabio Borini's strike handed substitute Ki Sung-yueng the chance to win it with just seconds of extra time remaining.

SF 1st leg: MANCHESTER UNITED (H) 2-1
The home side went in ahead at the break after Ryan Giggs could only bundle former team-mate Wes Brown's ball across goal into his own net. Nemanja Vidic levelled with a 52nd-minute header, but Borini ensured the Black Cats had a lead to defend at Old Trafford when he converted from the spot after Tom Cleverley had tripped Adam Johnson.

2nd leg: MANCHESTER UNITED (A) 1-2 AET (AGG: 3-3. Sunderland won 2-1 on pens)
Former Sunderland loanee Jonny Evans dragged United back into the tie with a first-half header, but they needed a last-gasp Javier Hernandez strike to take it to penalties after Bardsley's 119th-minute goal looked to have booked Sunderland's trip to Wembley.

But David Moyes' men wasted their reprieve in a dreadful shoot-out in which only Darren Fletcher was successful for the hosts, to allow Marcos Alonso and Ki to complete the job for the Wearsiders.

Saints Spotlight

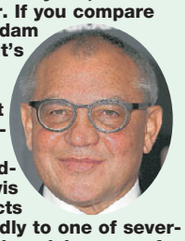
QUOTES of the week

"The crash wasn't that bad, it"s more the fact when I hit the floor and get knocked out straight away, I'm rolling on the floor like some rag doll and it's not pleasant to watch my body go limp like that. I am not bad, still a bit weird, not feeling 100 per cent but I'm getting better" - Skier Rowan Cheshire gives an update on her condition after a crash and resulting concussion ends her Olympics.

"The Champions League is like eating a fine meal in a nice restaurant. The Bundesliga, however, is more like a pizza or a hamburger every day" - Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola muses on the difference between a midweek trip to Arsenal and a weekend match-up against Hannover.

"We're getting the pizza and burgers ready, only we're going to decide what ingredients to use. We're going to make it a very spicy pizza and add a touch of mayonnaise to the burger, so it will be hard for Bayern to digest" - Opposite number Tayfun Korkut takes note of Guardiola's remarks, and sends the appropriate instructions to the Hannover club chef.

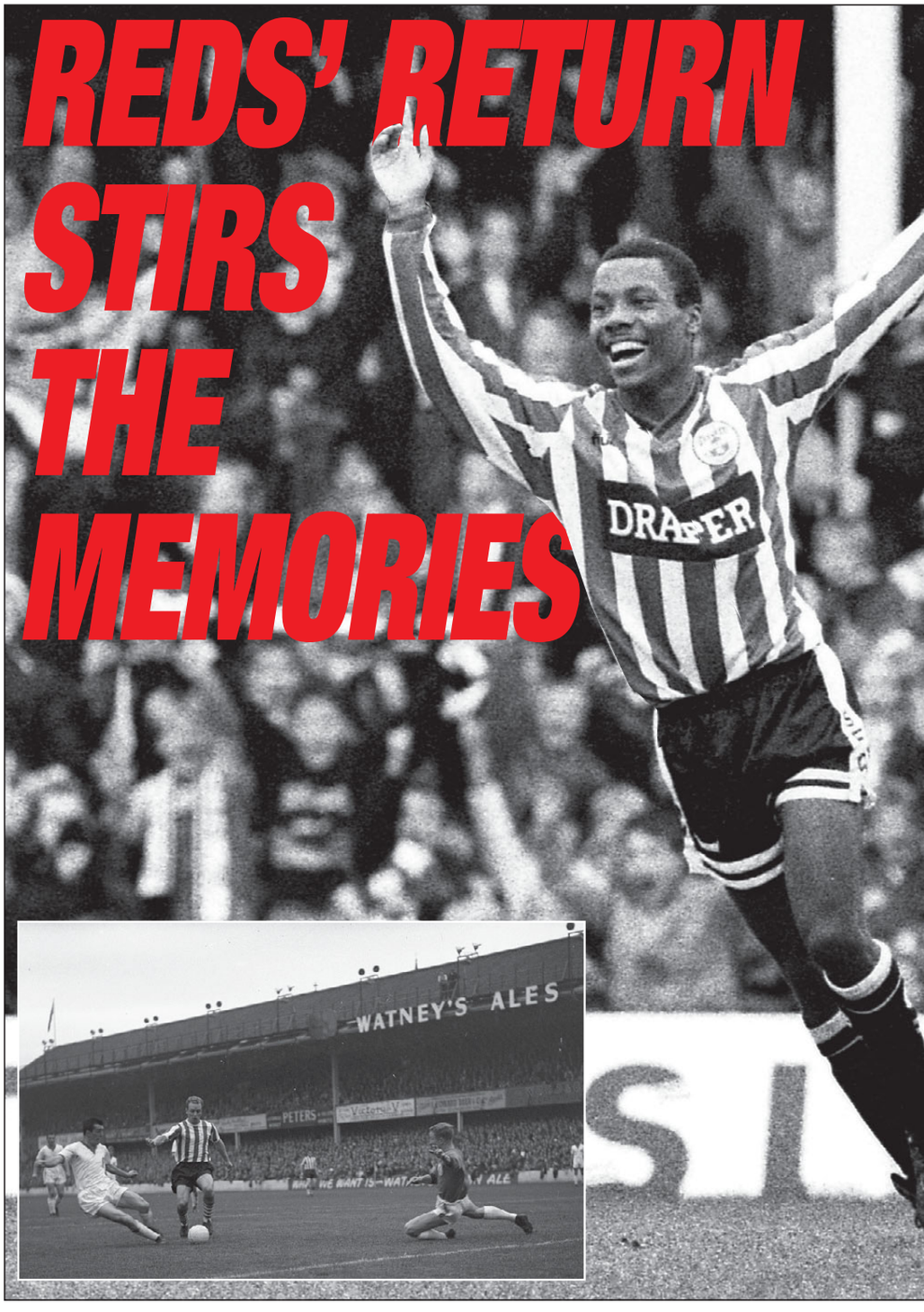
"I read he has been called "Saddam". It's over the top, he didn't kill anyone, he's not a murderer. If you compare him to Saddam (Hussain), it's not very generous and it's not very nice" - Fulham's on-loan midfielder Lewis Holtby reacts understatedly to one of several unflattering nicknames of new coach Felix Magath, PICTURED, under whom he played at Schalke and whose strenuous training methods have also seen him labelled "the Torturer".



"That was the sickest course I ever skied," bronze-medallist Henrik Kristoffersen, from Norway, sums up the shock of the course set by Croatian coach Ante Kostelic for the second leg of the Olympic men's slalom, won by Austria's Mario Matt.

"We are trying to find an Olympic champion, it's not children's racing," - Austrian runner-up Marcel Hirscher, though, was happy with conditions.

REDS' RETURN STIRS THE MEMORIES



FORMER kings of Europe Liverpool were back in Southampton this weekend.

The Reds' arrival brought back memories of many memorable games between the two clubs at both The Dell and St Mary's.

Here, *The Sports Pink* looks back at all the Saints v Liverpool league games on the south coast.

August 24, 1960
Saints 4 Liverpool 1

Ted Bates' men recovered from conceding an early goal to run out comfortable winners in their first home game back in the old Division 2.

Goals from John Sydenham, George O'Brien and Derek Reeves put Saints 3-1 up at half-time.

Terry Paine rounded off the scoring seven minutes into the second half, and Saints went to Anfield a week later and completed the double thanks to an O'Brien effort.

Despite those results, Liverpool still finished the season third, five places above an entertaining Saints side who scored 87 goals and conceded 81 in their 42 league games.

December 2 1961
Saints 2 Liverpool 0

Saints completed a hat-trick of league wins against the Reds.

A goal in each half from Tommy Mulgrew and George O'Brien inflicted one of only seven defeats in a season which ended with Liverpool winning the second tier title.

The Anfield men have not been back to that level since.

September 17 1966
Saints 1 Liverpool 2

There was a nightmare start for Saints when keeper Campbell Forsyth suffered a broken leg in colliding with Ian Callagher and Denis Hollywood.'

Defender David Webb went in goal - there were no sub keepers in those days - and he conceded an opener to Ian St John shortly after.

Callaghan added a second three minutes into the second half before Ron Davies replied late on.

September 19 1967
Saints 1 Liverpool 0

Martin Chivers' first minute header sentenced leaders Liverpool to defeat.

It was one of only nine losses that Bill Shankly's men suffered that season, fewer than any other club - though they could only finish third.

September 14 1968
Saints 2 Liverpool 0

Ron Davies and Terry Paine scored as Saints maintained their impressive Dell record against a Liverpool side who ended up runners-up in the top flight behind Leeds.

March 11 1970
Saints 0 Liverpool 1

Alun Evans scored the only goal just before half-time, ensuring Gerry O'Brien's debut ended up being a losing one.

September 26 1970
Saints 1 Liverpool 0

Again a Liverpool player scored the only goal of the game, but this time it was visiting defender Alec Lindsey putting through his own net nine minutes from time.

March 25 1972
Saints 0 Liverpool 1

John Toshack plundered a second half winner for a Liverpool side who finished third, a point adrift of champions Derby County.

October 14 1972
Saints 1 Liverpool 1

Mick Channon rescued a point for Saints against a Liverpool side who arrived as league leaders and who went on to claim the title. Chris Lawler had put the visitors ahead five minutes before the break.

October 13 1973
Saints 1 Liverpool 0

Mick Channon scored the only goal from the penalty spot in the seventh minute after a foul by Larry Lloyd.

April 24 1979
Saints 1 Liverpool 1

Nick Holmes struck a 74th minute equaliser as Saints hit back to claim a point against that season's runaway champions.

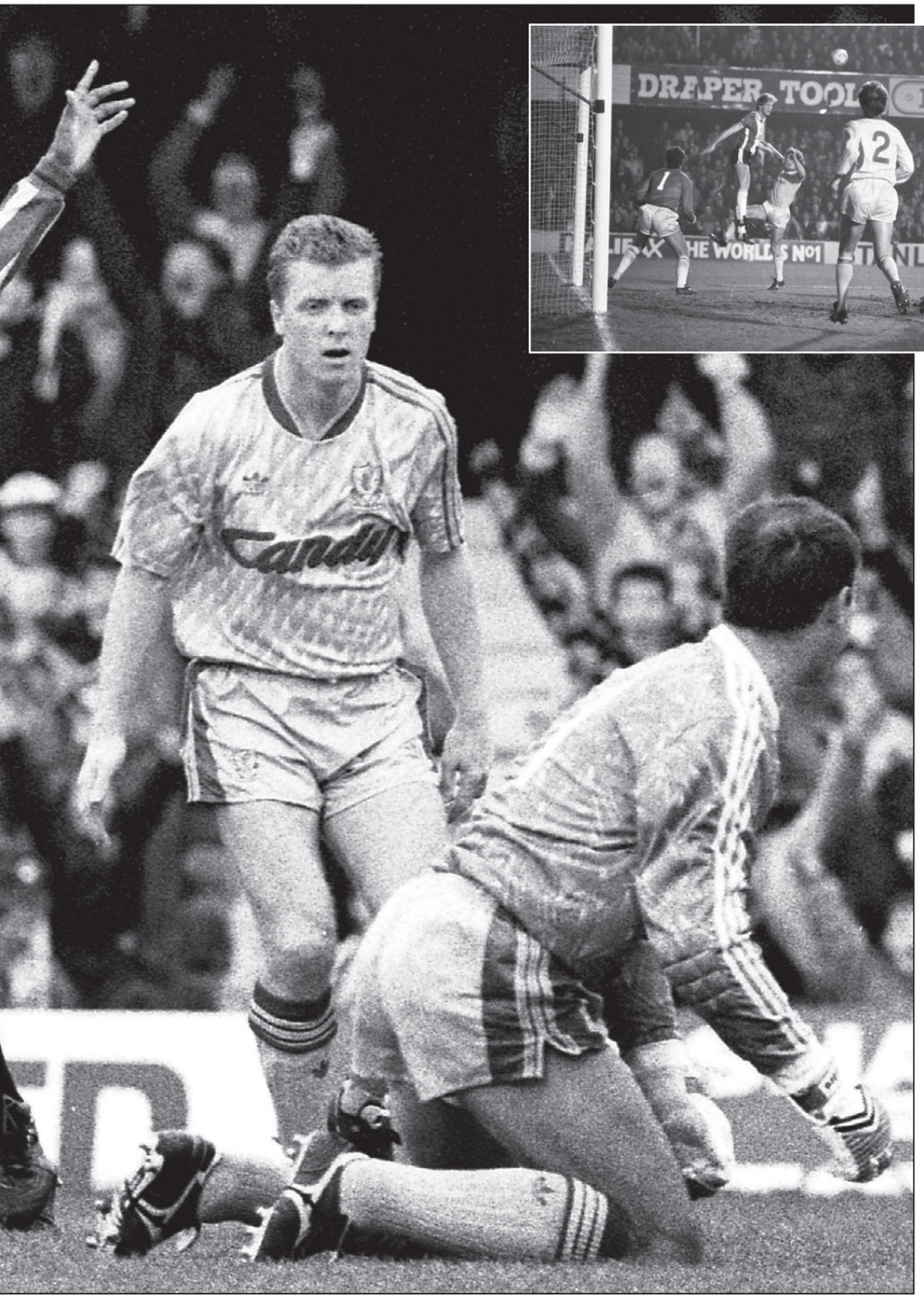
It was one of only a record 16 league goals Liverpool, who had gone ahead at The Dell through David Johnson, conceded in 42 games en route to the title.

September 1 1979
Saints 3 Liverpool 2

Lawrie McMenemy's Saints claimed a famous win against the reigning champions.

THIS SEASON'S SAINTS STATS ARE ON PAGE 8

Saints Spotlight



Trevor Hebberd fired them ahead on 12 minutes before David Johnson levelled four minutes later.

Phil Boyer restored Saints' lead in the second half and Charlie George made it 3-1 prior to Colin Irwin reducing the arrears late on.

September 20 1980
Saints 2 Liverpool 2

Future Saints boss Graeme Souness fired the visitors in front before Chris Nicholl and Phil Boyer put Saints in control at half-time.

David Fairclough pounced for a second half leveller.

April 24 1982
Saints 2 Liverpool 3

Liverpool took another step towards the title when Ronnie Whelan fired a last minute winner.

Ian Rush had put Bob Paisley's men ahead with Mick Channon levelling.

Whelan restored Liverpool's lead on 57 minutes before ex-Anfield favourite Kevin Keegan levelled from the penalty spot two minutes later.

April 16 1983
Saints 3 Liverpool 2

A pulsating game saw all five goals come in a thrilling opening half.

Steve Moran put Saints ahead from the penalty spot on only four minutes, but 12 minutes later Liverpool were ahead through Kenny Dalglish and Craig Johnston.

Nick Holmes levelled on 22 minutes before the same player cracked the winner four minutes before the break.

It was one of only eight defeats for Liverpool that season, as they ran away with the title by 11 points.

March 16 1984
Saints 2 Liverpool 0

A famous night at The Dell as two Danny Wallace goals gave Saints a Friday night victory in front of the live BBC cameras.

Wallace's first goal – an overhead kick after Mark Wright had headed a cross back to him – came on the stroke of half-time, and the winger hurled himself in front of Alan Hansen to head a late second.

Liverpool still went on to collect another top flight title, though, as well as the League Cup and European Cups that season.

May 14 1985
Saints 1 Liverpool 1

In the last league game of the season, David Armstrong levelled after John Wark had put the visitors ahead.

With Liverpool finishing second and Saints fifth, both clubs had qualified for the following season's UEFA Cup.

But they never competed, as English clubs were banned following the Heysel Stadium disaster in Liverpool's European Cup final against Juventus a fortnight later.

March 15 1986
Saints 1 Liverpool 2

George Lawrence thrust Saints in front shortly after the interval, but Liverpool – en route to another league title in Kenny Dalglish's first season in charge – hit back through John Wark and Ian Rush.

September 20 1986
Saints 2 Liverpool 1

Glenn Cockerill fired a winner midway through the second half.

Steve McMahon had earlier cancelled out David Armstrong's early opener.

The game ended on a sour note when Liverpool's Kevin McDonald suffered a broken leg.

December 12 1987
Saints 2 Liverpool 2

Saints staged a stirring comeback after John Barnes had struck twice in the first 38 minutes.

Colin Clarke started the comeback before Andy Townsend levelled 19 minutes from time.

Continued on page 16

QUOTES of the week

"What a dream come true. The Olympic medal was the one medal we have been missing and for me to win it with four of my best friends seems so special" - British skip Eve Muirhead cannot hide her delight after winning Olympic bronze.

"Why should I change my training? At the moment I am the most successful (club) coach of Germany. Why should I change? I don't know. Can you explain? Until now everybody has loved my training. No-one died. I am a nice guy, very nice" - Felix Magath defend his methods after being installed as Fulham boss.

"After work, it's their private life. I am not Sherlock Holmes, I'm a football coach. Good performance is more important for me" - West Brom coach Pepe Mel, who has had two mystery novels published, will not draw inspiration from the famous fictional detective.

"The pitch was a disgrace. I am not using it as an excuse, not for the chance, as both teams played on it but I am sure that it must have played some part in Robbie missing that one" - Tottenham coach Tim Sherwood not using Dnipro's pitch as an excuse for the chance missed from close range by Roberto Soldado.

"I'm disappointed now but a silver medal is scarily cool. I think I'll appreciate it in about 10 minutes" - British curling skip David Murdoch waits for the moment to sink in after losing the final in Sochi.

"It is not my way to act to criticise the referee, but in that case it was not a good day and he decided the game - but not with the intention to benefit Barcelona or damage Manchester City. He was in a bad day with very bad luck" - Manuel Pellegrini apologises after appearing to question the integrity of Swedish referee Jonas Eriksson after defeat to Barcelona.

SEE MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO FOR TODAY'S BIG MATCH ANALYSIS

Saints Spotlight

Sports Quiz

1 From which Dutch club did Swansea sign Wilfried Bony?
2 South Africa bowler Wayne Parnell has played county cricket for which two sides?
3 Which NFL side play their home matches at Arrowhead Stadium?
4 John Ward is the manager at which League Two club?
5 Which country have won the most Six Nations titles since its launch in 2000?
6 Which England and Sale wing marked his 200th game for the Sharks with a try in the recent win at Worcester?
7 Can you name the only two founder members of the Football League that have never won the FA Cup?
8 Which Leeds Rhinos centre made his debut for the club with a hat-trick against Hull KR earlier this month?
9 Of the four tennis grand slams, which is the only one Andy Murray has failed to reach the final of?
10 Which county did England Twenty20 captain Stuart Broad leave to join Nottinghamshire in 2007?
11 Which England and Sale wing marked his 200th game for the Sharks with a try in the recent win at Worcester?
12 Can you name the only two founder members of the Football League that have never won the FA Cup?
13 Which Leeds Rhinos centre made his debut for the club with a hat-trick against Hull KR earlier this month?
14 Of the four tennis grand slams, which is the only one Andy Murray has failed to reach the final of?

15 Which county did England Twenty20 captain Stuart Broad leave to join Nottinghamshire in 2007?
16 Name the stadium Northampton Town Football Club left in 1994 to move to their current Sixfields home.
17 How many shots over par for the tournament was Justin Rose in winning golf"s US Open title in 2013?
18 Name the Ecuadorian tennis player who beat Andre Agassi in the final of the 1990 French Open.
19 The Hartford Whalers were a team from which American sports league, whose franchise moved to North Carolina in 1997?
20 Who was the last English winner of snooker"s Welsh Open, in 2009?

ANSWERS

1 Vitesse Arnhem; 2 Kent and Sussex; 3 Kansas City Chiefs; 4 Bristol Rovers; 5 France (five); 6 Mark Cueto; 7 Stoke City and Accrington FC; 8 Tom Briscoe; 9 French Open;10 Leicestershire, 11 Mark Cueto; 12 Stoke City and Accrington FC; 13 Tom Briscoe; 14 French Open; 15 Leicestershire, 16 County Ground; 17 One over par; 18 Andres Gomez; 19 Ice hockey"s NHL; 20 Ali Carter.

SAINTS CAUSE A DEAL

Continued from page 15

September 24 1988
Saints 1 Liverpool 3
Second half goals from Peter Beardsley and Jan Molby (penalty) gave Liverpool victory.
Saints had gone in level at half-time after Derek Statham's penalty had cancelled out John Aldridge's opener.

October 21 1989
Saints 4 Liverpool 1
Another famous Dell win for Saints against a Reds side who arrived top of the table and who would eventually claim their last top flight title.
Rod Wallace scored twice after Paul Rideout's opener, before Matt Le Tissier sealed victory.
Peter Beardsley struck a consolation in what was Jason Dodd's first home game as a Saint.

April 1 1991
Saints 1 Liverpool 0
Matt Le Tissier's deflected fourth minute shot seperated the two sides.

December 7 1991
Saints 1 Liverpool 1
Future Saint Jamie Redknapp collected a 75th minute leveller for Liverpool after Alan Shearer had opened the scoring 20 minutes earlier.

February 13 1993
Saints 2 Liverpool 1
Sub Nicky Banger scored a 74th minute winner in the first Premier League game between the two clubs at The Dell. Neil Maddison had put Saints ahead with Don Hutchinson levelling.

February 14 1994
Saints 4
Liverpool 2
Another famous live televised Dell victory in what was Alan Ball's first home game as manager.
Matt Le Tissier scored inside 30 seconds and new signing Craig Maskell doubled the advantage on eight minutes.
Le Tissier had completed his hat-trick by the 49th minute, including a penalty, before Julian Dicks and Ian Rush replied.

August 31 1994
Saints 0 Liverpool 2
Robbie Fowler and John Barnes sentenced Saints to defeat.

October 22 1995
Saints 1 Liverpool 3
Matt Le Tissier was sent off for two bookable offences as Steve McManaman's double and a third from Jamie Redknapp helped Liverpool to a come from behind victory.
Gordon Watson had put Saints into a second minute lead.

December 29 1996
Saints 0 Liverpool 1
John Barnes was on target at The Dell again, this time with a 76th minute decider.

September 20 1997
Saints 1 Liverpool 1
Kevin Davies equalised in the second half after Karl Heinz Reidle had scored with a 38th minute opener.

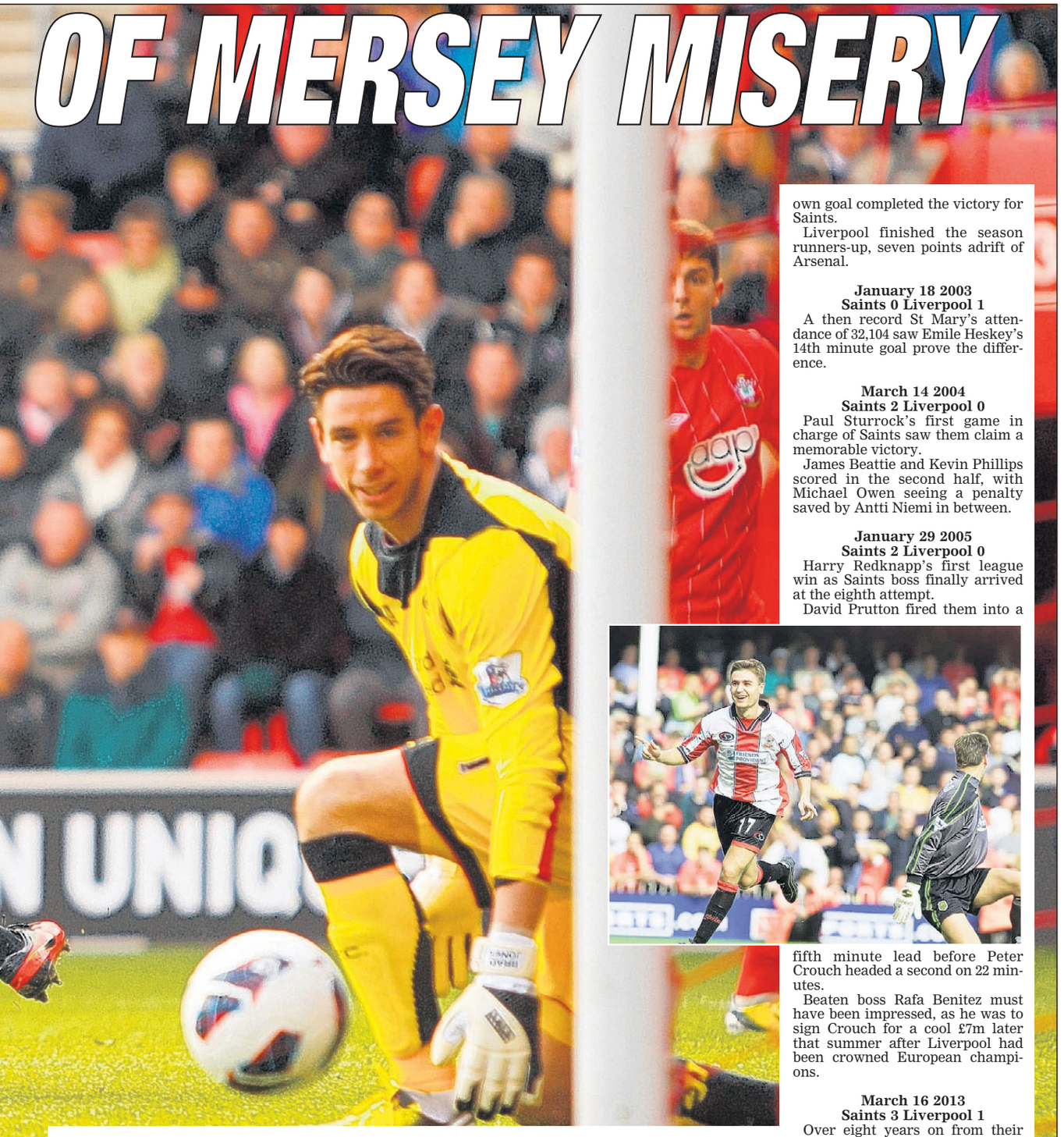
August 16 1998
Saints 1 Liverpool 2
Dave Jones handed five players their Saints league debuts on the opening day of the season.
Scott Hiley, Mark Hughes and Stuart Ripley all started, while Wayne Bridge and James Beattie came off the bench.
Egil Ostenstad opened the scoring and, after Karl Heinz Reidle had levelled, Michael Owen

GOAL: Morgan Schneiderlin nets against Liverpool in 2013 and, inset right, Marian Pahars celebrates scoring against the Reds in 2000.

TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS/ TABLE

Saints Spotlight

OF MERSEY MISERY



grabbed the winner.

It was the 18-year-old Owen's first competitive game since springing to world fame with his sensational World Cup goal against Argentina a few weeks earlier.

October 23 1999
Saints 1 Liverpool 1

Titi Camara struck an 81st minute leveller after Saints had gone ahead through Trond Soltvedt

August 28 2000
Saints 3 Liverpool 3

Saints were 0-3 down with 16 minutes left to goals from Michael Owen (2) and Sami Hyypia.

Marian Pahars began the sensational recovery before Tahir El Khalej made it 3-2 five minutes from time.

Two minutes into injury time, Pahars levelled with his second goal of an extraordinary match.

January 9 2002
Saints 2 Liverpool 0

Saints claimed victory on Liverpool's first ever visit to St Mary's.

James Beattie's penalty broke the deadlock just after the hour mark, before a John Arne Riise own goal completed the victory for Saints.

Liverpool finished the season runners-up, seven points adrift of Arsenal.

January 18 2003
Saints 0 Liverpool 1

A then record St Mary's attendance of 32,104 saw Emile Heskey's 14th minute goal prove the difference.

March 14 2004
Saints 2 Liverpool 0

Paul Sturrock's first game in charge of Saints saw them claim a memorable victory.

James Beattie and Kevin Phillips scored in the second half, with Michael Owen seeing a penalty saved by Antti Niemi in between.

January 29 2005
Saints 2 Liverpool 0

Harry Redknapp's first league win as Saints boss finally arrived at the eighth attempt.

David Prutton fired them into a fifth minute lead before Peter Crouch headed a second on 22 minutes.

Beaten boss Rafa Benitez must have been impressed, as he was to sign Crouch for a cool £7m later that summer after Liverpool had been crowned European champions.

March 16 2013
Saints 3 Liverpool 1

Over eight years on from their last league encounter on the south coast, Saints again claimed victory at home to Liverpool.

Morgan Schneiderlin and childhood Liverpool fan Rickie Lambert put Mauricio Pochettino's men in control.

Pochettino's former Espanyol loanee Philippe Coutinho reduced the arrears.

But Jay Rodriguez sealed a great victory ten minutes from time.

Jose urges Roy to pick Lampard and Cole for Brazil

CHELSEA manager Jose Mourinho feels England boss Roy Hodgson should keep faith with Frank Lampard and Ashley Cole for the World Cup after the pair helped the Three Lions qualify for the tournament in Brazil this summer.

Hodgson admits he may have to dash the World Cup dreams of some of his senior England players, having chosen a number of inexperienced names in his 30-strong squad for next week's friendly against Denmark.

While Hodgson has not directly named those he might think to leave behind, it would be reasonable to assume players like Cole and Lampard, who have over 200 caps between them, are under threat.

Cole has been a mainstay of tournament football for England since 2002, but the 33-year-old left-back is no longer first choice at Chelsea, with Southampton's Luke Shaw likely to get the nod against the Danes.

Lampard – who turns 36 in late June – would probably be looking at a last World Cup finals appearance this year, and was England's second top-goalscorer in the qualifying campaign.

Hodgson is set to name his provisional squad on May 13, which will eventually be trimmed down to 23.

Mourinho is in no doubt his Chelsea duo should be on the plane.

"It is not my decision, but I try to be pragmatic.

"If one day I am the national team manager of any country, I think the players that take me to the Euros or to the World Cup are the players I am going to take to the Euros or the World Cup," the Portuguese coach said.

"They took me, by qualifying, so after that, I take them on my plane.

"I don't think it makes a lot of sense if you trust some players to do qualification and, after that, you don't select them and pick others for the tournament.

"For me, the national team means a lot, my national team means a lot."

KEEP UP WITH SAINTS NEWS ALL WEEK IN THE DAILY ECHO

SOUTHERN Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £44,000

or £2,900 nearest miss prize...

PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week

20 for Southern Daily Echo
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth
10 for Dorset Echo
10 for Sunday Independent
10 for Brighton Argus

FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot and £50 will be added to the nearest-miss prize.

The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

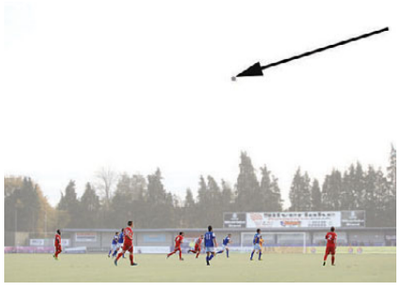
If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES Thursday 9am, 6 March 2014

Names of winners will be published on **Saturday, 8 March or Sunday 9 March 2014**

Winners

Competition number **S06**

JACKPOT WINNER **NO WINNER**

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr N Nickerson, Hedge End, Hants

who wins the nearest miss prize of £2,850

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of **£15**

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Mrs L Bulman, Southampton, Hants
Mrs L Bundy, Southampton, Hants
Miss J Butler, Southampton, Hants
Mr I Clark, Southampton, Hants
Mrs D Collett, Southampton, Hants
Mrs L Emery, Southampton, Hants
Mr N Frost, Fareham, Hants
Mr D Gibbons, Romsey, Hants
Mrs K Gibson, Southampton, Hants
Mrs S Henry, Southampton, Hants
Mr A Hicks, Southampton, Hants
Mr R Hughes, Southampton, Hants
Mr B Joy, Salisbury, Wilts
Mrs B Lamb, Southampton, Hants
Mrs B Rass, Southampton, Hants
Mr B Shergold, Southampton, Hants
Mrs E Stickland, Southampton, Hants
Mrs B Thorne, Southampton, Hants
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Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 325 per coupon. Coupons with 326 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed '& Co.' Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO. **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB PO Box 24 Competitions, Southampton SO16 9ZD in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity. **12.** Photocopies not accepted. **13.** For rules go to www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules, www.newsquest.co.uk/terms or write in for a copy.

An incident in a Totton v Arlesey Town match

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SOUTHERN Daily Echo

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For your convenience coupons may be posted in our **FIND THE BALL** collecting boxes located at selected newsagents and all branch offices

Deadlines for branch office collection boxes are as follows:
Bournemouth Echo 12 noon Tuesday
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A list of participating newsagents will be published in the Echos on the first Saturday of each month

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Cheques payable to Newsquest

Non-league Action

SKRILL CONFERENCE SOUTH: Eastleigh 3 Weston-super-Mare 1

THREE AND EASY FOR EASTLEIGH ...

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

EASTLEIGH narrowed the gap on Skrill Conference South leaders Bromley with a vastly improved second-half display at the Silverlake Stadium this afternoon.

While table-topping Bromley were held 2-2 by Bath City, the Spitfires recovered from the blow of missing a penalty in a goalless first-half to see off Weston-super-Mare 3-1 in front of a 602 crowd.

The Spitfires, looking to avenge a 3-2 January defeat at Weston, again started without holding midfielder Jamie Collins.

Although he was named on the bench on his comeback from ankle trouble.

On-loan Salisbury man Ben Wright again spearheaded the attack and sent a diagonal shot wide of the far post five minutes in after exchanging passes with Reece Connolly.

The first hint of any pressure from Weston took 11-minutes coming when Dayle Grubb shot from Callum Laird's cross slammed off defender Dan Spence.

BLAZED WIDE

The ball eventually came out to Ashley Kington, who blazed a long range effort wide.

Five minutes later Spitfires centre-back Dean Beckwith was booked for a foul some 30-yards out. Grubb delivered Weston's free-kick and Kane Ingram flicked a header wide.

Referee Antony Coggins incurred Weston's wrath when he denied them a potential break, instigated by Navi Diallo by pulling the game back for a foul.

Eastleigh responded with back-to-back chances from Wright in the 24th minute.

First he had a point blank shot deflected over after Ben Strevens had pulled the ball back from the by-line.

Then he headed Michael Green's corner straight at keeper Lloyd Irish. The Spitfires came closer still on the half-hour when Jai Reason drove across from the right and teed-up Connolly who was desperately unlucky to see his shot crash down off the woodwork.

Strevens entered the referee's notebook following a minor skirmish with Ingram and the next time referee Coggins brandished the yellow card it should have had dire consequences for the visitors.

Laird wrestled Stuart Fleetwood down on the byline after the ball had been played in by left-back Green.

Mr Coggins pointed to the penalty spot, but for the second Saturday running, Reason fluffed his lines from 12-yards as Irish dived to his left to carry the ball away.

Eastleigh goalkeeper Ross Flitney was called into action for the first time on 43 minutes, touching over Kington's awkward, dipping shsot from distance. Kington tried his luck again after exchanging passes with Grubb following a corner, but Reason was back to block.

Eastleigh were sent out early for the second-half, presumably with a few choice words from manager Richard Hill stinging their ears.

They responded positively, but luck cruelly deserted them yet again on 49 minutes when Wright turned brilliantly on the edge of the area and thundered a shot against the crossbar.

Three minutes later Fleetwood played in Reason on the right of the six-yard box but, with only Irish to beat, he dithered on the ball allowing a posse of defenders to race across and snuff him out.

Reason atoned with an excellent pass to Spence over by the corner flag.

The right-back picked out Wright with an excellent cross, but the forward's firm downward header was smothered by Irish on the goalline.

Apart from a shot by left-back Martin Slocombe, which drifted wide, Weston offered little at the start of the second-half.

By now Eastleigh were well on top, but it was going to take something special to turn their luck.

That piece of magic materialised on 59 minutes with a superb individual strike by loanee Wright.

Taking possession on the right of the area, he skilfully weaved his way past three defenders before smashing the ball home from close range.

Five minutes later it was 2-0 to the Spitfires with Wright expertly holding the ball up and turning provider for Reason to fire home from the left of the area.

HEAD HOME

With the game looking safe, Collins replaced Strevens with 66 minutes gone.

But, out-of-the-blue, the Seagulls replied five minutes later when Grubb crossed deep from the left and Chas Hemmings rose highest to head home at the far post.

Craig McAllister replaced Connolly in the aftermath and it was the big target man who restored Eastleigh's two goal cushion on 76 minutes, beating keeper Irish to a through ball and expertly lifting it over him from the edge of the box.

As three minutes of stoppage time was announced Weston substitute Alex Fidders made space for himself on the edge of the area and fired just over.

Then, at the other end, Reason delivered a corner which McAllister headed wide.

EYES ON THE BALL: Eastleigh's Ben Wright chases down a through ball in his side's win over Weston-super-Mare.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Boss hails Bird strikes

CAMBRIDGE United booked a Wembley date with Gosport Borough last weekend – with a large slice of help from Portsmouth loanee Ryan Bird.

Having scored twice at the Abbey Stadium to hand United a 2-1 first-leg lead over Grimsby Town in the FA Trophy semi-final first leg, the 26-year-old came up with another crucial goal last week in a 1-1 draw at Blundell Park.

Bird – a prolific non-League scorer for Burnham prior to moving to Fratton Park – will come face to face with Alex Pike's Gosport at Wembley on Sunday, March 23.

Cambridge boss Richard Money said of Bird this week: "His goals have proved invaluable since he has been here and he has been a more than useful addition to our strike-force."

Josh extends stay

AFC BOURNEMOUTH attacking midfielder Josh Wakefield has extended his loan spell with Skrill Conference Premier club Welling United until the end of the season.

The 20-year-old, below, who has played three times for the Cherries' senior side, originally moved to Park View Road in January, but his appearances for the Wings have been restricted by the weather.

He has previously had loan spells with Wimborne Town, Hamworthy United, Dagenham & Redbridge and Dorchester Town.

United's treble chance

WHITCHURCH United cruised into the semi-finals of the Andover Open Cup with a comfortable 4-1 win over Kingsclere at Longmeadow on Tuesday.

Nic Turpin volleyed the Sydenhams Premier hosts into a 25th-minute lead before Tom Lockyer headed home Luke Walker's corner.

Shane Lock added a third on the hour, leaving Walker to crown victory 20 minutes from time.

Cup specialists Whitchurch are straight through to the final of the North Hants Senior Cup following the withdrawal of Stockbridge, while they face Petersfield Town in the semis of the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup on March 11.

SAFE HANDS: Matt Brown claims the ball during Sholing's FA Vase victory over Larkhall.

DIAPS HAILS BROWN POTENTIAL

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

HE MAY have got a half-time ticking off in Sholing's biggest game of the season last Saturday, but goalkeeper Matt Brown has the potential to play higher.

So says the deliverer of that dressing room pep talk, manager Dave Diaper, who was chuffed to see the 24-year-old respond with a man-of-the-match display in an historic 1-0 FA Vase win over Larkhall Athletic.

For large chunks of a tense fifth-round tie at the Silverlake Arena, Sholing had to defend for their lives against the lively leaders of the Toolstation Western Premier Division.

And Brown, ably protected by the Boatmen's twin defensive towers Pete Castle and Lee Bright, barely put a foot wrong – apart from one heart-in-the-mouth moment when he made a total hash of dealing with a 15th-minute corner amid a congested 18-yard box.

Diaper said: "Browner was a bit iffy to start with, but he kept us in the game.

"I told him at half-time 'you're a big lad and if someone blocks you off, that shouldn't be happening. Just shove them out of the way.'

"But Matt's done well for us. He knows he's one-and-a-half stone overweight and at the moment he's a Wessex League goalkeeper, but he could have a future at Conference level if he was dedicated enough."

Until the age of 16, Southampton lad Brown was a member of a gifted Saints youth squad which spawned such prodigious talent as Theo Walcott and the world's most expensive footballer Gareth Bale.

DAVE DIAPER

After leaving St Mary's he had a spell with Eastleigh youth before joining Sholing during their VT FC days.

Brown went off to university in Plymouth and, on returning to the area, played for his old Eastleigh mentor Wayne Mew at Romsey Town.

Now living and working as a sports lecturer in Bournemouth, he provides the sturdy backbone of a Boatmen's side who have conceded just 16 goals in 22 league games since voluntarily returning to the Wessex ranks from the Southern League.

Keeping a clean sheet against Larkhall was some achievement. The Bath-based outfit have been scoring goals for fun this term and their eye-catching centre-forward Tyler Sibbick – an ex-Weymouth reserve player – ran Brown close as star of the show.

Reliving his uncomfortable first-half moment, Brown said: "One of their lads was pushing into me and I was told at half-time to toughen up and be more commanding.

"Fair play to Larkhall, they had a lot of movement, but we dug in and got the result we needed.

"It wasn't always pretty, but we know we can play better and it's the sign of a good team that we ground out the win.

"We've played stop-start with the weather lately which made it difficult coming into a big game like this. But these occasions are all about the result."

With last week's game delayed by a week, Sholing already knew another home tie awaited them should their 'March to Arch' extend to the quarter-finals.

Lying in wait for the Boatmen next Saturday (March 8, 3pm) are Cambridgeshire outfit Wisbech Town, currently seventh in the United Counties Premier Division.

"When we set out at the start of the season, the Vase was one of the cups we wanted to go far in," said Brown.

"We've got a good home record, which we'll take into the next game.

"We like playing at the Silverlake and teams coming here know they've got to do something special to beat us."

In fairness to Larkhall they did serve up a special performance but, faced with Brown's defiance, they lacked that crucial end product.

It was the Boatmen's tireless top gun Lee Wort who gave them a lesson in finishing, expertly hooking the ball past Brown's opposite number Chris Snoddy in the 11th minute of extra-time.

"Larkhall have got a good pedigree and controlled large portions of the game, but football's all about putting the ball in the net," Diaper reflected.

"Our lads gave it their all and when I got them together for extra-time I said that, while Worty was on the pitch, we were always in with a shout."

Leveller not enough to save Williams ...

ALDERSHOT Town boss Andy Scott felt more like throttling Brett Williams than hugging him in the wake of Tuesday's 1-1 draw at Dartford in the Skrill Conference Premier.

Former Winchester City and Eastleigh striker Williams got the north Hampshire relegation battlers out of jail with a spectacular 88th-minute equaliser from 25 yards.

But it was the least the 26-year-old, below, could do after his horrendous defensive blunder had led to Shots goalkeeper Glenn Morris being sent off and Elliott Bradbrook giving Dartford the lead from the penalty spot.

A free-kick arrived at Williams' feet 12 yards out which he should have hacked to safety. Instead, the Shots top scorer inexplicably tried to dribble the ball out of his own area. He was dispossessed and, amid the panic, the unfortunate Morris was dismissed for bringing down Alex Wall.

Scott said afterwards: "It was an amazing finish (for the goal), but he was lucky he was out there in the second half because I nearly strangled him at half-time.

"Any one of our players, a million times, most of them wouldn't have actually done that. But, for some reason, Brett did. And not just once. If he clears it, we're not under pressure. It's just a ridiculous decision.

"I despair sometimes. I'm still furious with him. Although he's scored a goal, it's not acceptable. He's let people down because we could have won that game."

But Scott added: "The goal was huge. You could feel the lift it gave the whole dressing room."

Williams has netted 18 times this season, placing him third in the Conference Premier goal charts behind Luton Town's Andre Gray (24) and FC Halifax's Lee Gregory (20).

TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS – SEE BACK PAGE

Non-league Football

CRACKER-JACK SIGNING

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

JACK Satterley's classy late strike on Tuesday was overshadowed by the awesome firepower of an Alresford Town side who have rattled in 12 goals in their last two Sydenhams Premier outings.

But Blackfield & Langley believe they have bagged themselves a gem in the former Verwood and Bashley striker, pictured below, who has banged in five goals in as many Wessex games since arriving at Gang Warily.

Three of them came away at Fareham Town last Saturday where, as assistant Watersiders boss Chris Farrell explained, he conjured up the perfect hat-trick in a 3-1 win.

"Jack scored the first with his right foot, the second with a header and the third with his left foot – it was the complete package," he said.

"The first goal was fantastic. A through ball from Jack Smith came over his shoulder and he's let it bounce once before despatching it with his right foot.

Confidence

"On his debut for us Jack missed enough chances against Downton to win 20 matches, but he'd been playing at Bashley who weren't having the best of times so his confidence was low.

"But he's getting that confidence back now and we had a laugh after the Fareham game because he said his second goal was only the second time he'd ever scored with a header.

"Jack's got a good touch and he works hard and he's a really nice lad too."

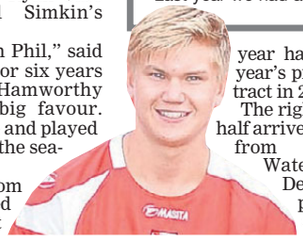
Satterley's deft touch was again in evidence in the last knockings at Alresford when he punished a rare defensive lapse by the Magpies to net a perfect chip via the underside of the crossbar.

But on the night, the reigning league champions were no match for last season's runners-up as goals by Warren Bentley (2), Zach Glasspool (2) and Suhael Odeh sent Blackfield crashing to a 5-1 defeat.

After the recent upheavals at Gang Warily, Blackfield's squad was left thin on the ground.

Satterley's arrival has been a welcome boost and the Watersiders have taken former AFC Bournemouth defender Ryan Case on loan from Phil Simkin's Dorchester Town.

"I'm good friends with Phil," said Farrell. "We spent five or six years working together at Hamworthy and he's done us a big favour. Ryan's been here before and played a game for us earlier in the season."



Case, who hails from Basingstoke, was released by Bournemouth last year having secured a year's professional contract in 2012.

The right-back/centre-half arrived at Dorchester from Havant & Waterlooville in December having previously been at Hampton & Richmond Borough.

Blackfield have also appointed a new coach following the twin departure of John McFarlane and Tom Barge to Romsey Town.

Experienced

New in at Gang Warily is vastly experienced former Alton, Winchester City, Bashley and Gosport Borough boss John Robson who, until recently, had been helping out at Hamworthy United.

"John was with us at Fareham last week and made a full contribution," said Farrell. "He's a nice fella and it's good to have him on board."

TOP GUN: Blackfield & Langley assistant boss Chris Farrell rates Alresford striker Warren Bentley, left, as an "excellent player".

Rival bosses laud Magpies' class of 2013/14

BLACKFIELD & Langley's 5-1 loss at Alresford Town on Tuesday was their third defeat of the season by the goal-hungry Magpies.

And, even before the game, assistant manager Chris Farrell suspected the reigning Sydenhams Premier champions were in for a tough night.

"In my opinion Alresford have improved from last year," he said.

"They beat us 2-0 in the League Cup in November and they were mobile, fit and used the ball very well. I was really impressed.

"Warren Bentley is an excellent player."

Alresford co-boss Danny Robinson feels that, form-wise, Alresford are on a parallel with last season and, squad-wise, they are better off.

"One thing we've learned this year is to use the squad better," he said. "Last year we had a set 11 players and ran them into the ground.

"But this year Andy Mott has come in to join his brother, Stuart, who's our skipper and the youngest in the changing room at 22.

"Andy was away at Brighton University and is doing a good job for us in central midfield.

"His brother Stuart plays centre-half these days, but he was a centre forward before when he played for New Milton.

"We've also got Steve Hall, a midfielder who signed for us from Fawley and is only 21, but the only thing with Steve is that he can't play Tuesdays because of work."

Three days before bashing Blackfield, the merciless Mapgies had clobbered Christchurch 7-1 – Priory's biggest defeat for four-and-a-half years.

Shell-shocked Christchurch boss Michael Cuffie admitted afterwards: "The game was over at half-time and, to be honest, it could have been more. They were too good for us."

But he added: "I have to take a lot of responsibility because we were a bit too casual and I played the wrong system."

Alresford have work to do to keep pace with title favourites Sholing but, on current form, you wouldn't bet against them pushing the Boatmen all the way.

Asked if he thought they could catch Sholing, Robinson said: "I think we can.

"It's out of our hands in that we've already played them twice and lost.

"But if they ever have a blip or take their eye off the ball because of the FA Vase – which I'm sure (manager) Dave Diaper wouldn't let happen – we want to be there waiting."

Non-league News

Gos Wembley tickets

TICKETS are now available for Gosport Borough's big day out at Wembley.

The Privett Park club stepped into dreamland last weekend when they booked their passage to north London's home of football by overcoming local rivals Havant & Waterlooville in the FA Trophy semi-final.

They will now face Conference National high-fliers Cambridge United in the final on Sunday, March 23 (3pm).

Tickets, priced £30 for adults and £15 for under-16s and OAPs, can now be sourced through The FA's website (*http://ticketing.thefa.com/*).

Gosport have also been allocated about 4,500 tickets which will be sold by the club. The prices are the same as above but, by purchasing them through the club, fans can save money on postage charges.

The club's allocation of seats are in a prominent position, offering the advantage of keeping the Borough faithful together and enhancing the atmosphere.

Gosport expect to receive their allocation shortly and will announce details as soon as possible on their website (*gosportboroughfc.co.uk*).

Hammers nail Terras

GRAHAM Kemp's Hamworthy United defeated a young Weymouth side 4-2 on Tuesday to book their place in the final of the Dorset Senior Cup.

The Hammers raced 2-0 up inside 22 minutes through Dan Haysom and Russell Cook, pictured below, and extended their lead through Alex Martin six minutes into the second half.

Left winger Martin, the most impressive player on the pitch, struck again 13 minutes later, skipping past several challenges before sliding the ball past beleaguered Terras 'keeper Ryan Park.

Despite Martin's two virtuoso efforts, Weymouth's young guns refused to lie down and hit back with two goals in as many minutes from Lloyd Beals and Sam Nichols.

GO TO dailyecho.co.uk FOR THE LATEST NON-LEAGUE NEWS

Non-league Football

Too good to Pass up ...

BROCKENHURST have brought in up-and-coming young goalkeeper George Passingham after parting company with the experienced Scott O'Rourke.

With ex-Sholing man O'Rourke finding it increasingly difficult to commit of late, Badgers boss Pat McManus had grown increasingly reliant on ex-AFC Totton youngster Nathan Goodger.

But, at just 18, Goodger still has plenty to learn about first-team football and McManus has covered his bases by signing ex-Totton & Eling and Winchester City 'keeper Passingham, pictured above, from Fawley AFC.

The Brock boss explained: "Nathan is still very much part of things here, but we're taking him out of the firing line a bit.

"He came into the club to work alongside Scott, but we ended up chucking him in at the deep end.

"George is also a teenager, but he's a bit more experienced.

"He played some Southern League football at a difficult time for Winchester City last season and has been a regular at Fawley.

"Both he and Nathan are good, young goalkeepers and we're trying to get that younger element to Brock.

"We've already got one eye on next season but, really, we're planning ahead for the next three or four years."

Unfortunately for Passingham, he had a torrid debut on Tuesday. With Brock trailing 2-1 at Totton & Eling, he was sent off for bringing down Dougie Rowe at the expense of a penalty and the ten-man Badgers went on to lose the game 4-2.

Another young gun new in at Grigg Lane is ex-Eastleigh midfielder/defender Joe Chamberlain.

He too featured for Winchester City last season, on loan from the Spitfires.

"I've heard some good reports about Joe and hopefully he'll do well here," said McManus.

The Brock boss, though, is aware that his side can't be too heavily orientated towards youth.

Last Saturday's dismal 4-2 defeat at struggling Romsey Town was a timely reminder that a bit of extra nous wouldn't go amiss.

"We do need to have some experience in the side," he confessed. "At Romsey, as well as the three games before it, it's what we've lacked, that ability to do the right thing at the right time.

"We were shocking at Romsey and if we play like that for the rest of the season, we won't pick up another point. I've never seen us so bad.

"Romsey looked like a team who had something to play for and they scrapped for everything.

"Winning looked more important to them than it did to us.

"The pitch was a bit of a cabbage field which made it hard for us because I'm forever convincing people to get the ball down and play.

"But we were full of mistakes and Romsey deserved to win."

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SHOT IN THE ARM

New arrivals give Town survival hopes an instant boost

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

CARL Bennett says the arrival of John McFarlane and Tom Barge has been like a breath fresh air at Romsey Town.

Having taken over the managerial reins from Danny Barker at a difficult time for the club, Bennett is grateful to have the ex-Blackfield & Langley pair on board as the Bypass boys plot their escape route from the Sydenhams Premier Division relegation zone.

Both Barge, a former Romsey player, and McFarlane, assistant to ex-Town boss Glenn Burnett, were already well-known faces at the Bypass Ground and have been welcomed back with open arms.

"Credit to John and Tom. They've come in with a massive amount of new ideas and it's just been really nice to have them around," said Bennett.

"John's set us up with a style of play that he wants to get on board and he's brought a real freshness about the place.

"John's here as co-manager with me and Tom's our player-coach working alongside Dan Piper.

"They have been trying to get to know the players as quickly as they can and the lads have responded well. They're training hard and working hard and they're all aboard with what we're trying to do."

That much was evident last Saturday as Romsey dragged themselves out of the bottom two with a pleasing 4-2 victory at home to Brockenhurst.

Having raced 2-0 up inside 11 minutes through Craig Vigar and Danilo Cadete, they paid the price for resting on the laurels as Brock's Brad Magookin and Mark Barker hit back for 2-2 at half-time.

But Romsey came good again with Danny Phillips making it 3-2 before substitute Ronan Gallaway – a new defensive recruit from Hampshire Premier League outfit Winchester Castle – netted a peach of a fourth with all the aplomb of a seasoned striker.

"Ronan's naturally a centre-half, but he came off the bench to play left-back on Saturday," said Bennett. "You wouldn't believe he was a left-back from the way he finished though! It was a great left-foot volley into the top corner."

Galloway replaced newly-signed Latvian defender Eriks Melbardis, brought to the Bypass Ground by McFarlane.

"I don't know too much about Eriks, but he played in the Latvian leagues and was training at Blackfield with John," Bennett explained.

"He can play anywhere across the back.

"Tom Barge also came in and played the full 90 minutes for us in central midfield.

"We absolutely dominated the first 15 or 20 minutes against Brock, but we played so well that the lads took their foot off the gas a bit before coming good again in the second half.

"It's a good result for us, but we've told the lads not to get too carried away. We beat Winchester City not so long ago and then went on a bad run," he cautioned. "That game's gone now and it's back to the drawing board with training and the home game against Bournemouth Poppies (today)."

Romsey had hoped to bring Dean Cole back to the Bypass Ground from Winchester Castle, but the experienced former Andover, Follands and Alresford striker had a change heart.

"Dean did sign for us, but now he's told us he can't commit," Bennett explained. "I'm not sure if he's staying with Winchester or if he'll even carry on playing."

ON TARGET: Romsey Town's Craig Vigar netted against Brockenhurst.

HOW THEY STAND

Sydenhams Premier Division (bottom eight)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Horndean	28	9	5	14	44	55	32
Verwood Town	27	7	7	13	33	43	28
Christchurch	26	8	4	14	40	56	28
Bournemouth	28	7	3	18	41	65	24
Totton & Eling	28	8	0	20	38	85	24
Romsey Town	31	4	5	22	33	85	17
Downton	32	4	5	23	34	98	17
Fawley	28	4	4	20	35	84	16

Lavvy boss backs Hythe to go fourth

HYTHE & Dibden have been tipped for a top-four Sydenhams One finish by Laverstock & Ford boss Robbie Lakeman.

Having slammed five past Ringwood last Saturday, the on-song Watersiders produced a repeat 5-0 scoreline against Lavvy on Tuesday with Seun Olabiyi and Steve Green scoring twice, aided by one from Simon De'Ath.

On the evidence of Tuesday's display, Lakeman has backed third-placed Hythe to finish strongly.

He said: "They are a very strong, experienced and well-organised side and one which I think will finish in the top four.

"These are the sides we need to test ourselves against, but we fell short because we are a very young side who are very much growing and developing into what I hope will be a top team in the near future."

Hythe assistant boss Scott Johnston does not feel the Watersiders are quite at their best yet, but said: "The application of the lads was excellent. The desire to keep a clean sheet and work hard for each other was there to be seen.

"The togetherness in this team is the best I've ever seen and that's huge credit to (manager) Lee Burch.

"The way he prepares for a match, making every small detail count, managing each player to their individual needs and only signing particular players that fit his criteria.

"This squad is no happy accident. It's been carefully assembled from as early as February last year when we first walked in."

Sean Stone went on as a substitute for De'Ath on Tuesday having served a three-match suspension that actually lasted three months!

He picked up the ban against Tadley Calleva at the end of November but, with all the wet-weather postponements, he has only just completed it.

SIMON DE'ATH

Non-league Football

ROLLING BACK THE YEARS

PEDIGREE: Dave Puckett, right, watches the ball go in for Saints in the early 1980s.

Record-breaker Puckett, 53, nets in Wessex Premier match

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

STUART Hussey says he will continue playing age-defying striker Dave Puckett for as long as the ex-Saint can make a difference for Totton & Eling.

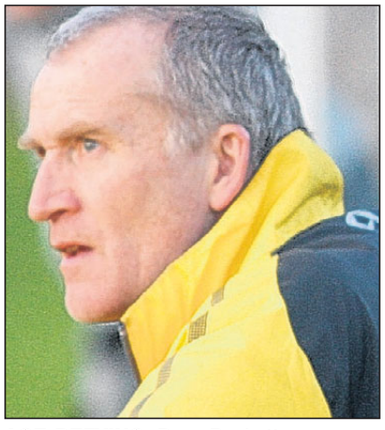
At 53, the veteran Millers player-coach is more than twice as old as some of his team-mates.

But the lessons learned in a professional career with Southampton, AFC Bournemouth and Aldershot are still serving him well and last Saturday Puckett underlined his status as the oldest player ever to score in a Wessex League match.

With a couple of minutes to go and T&E leading through Dougie Rowe and Adam Lowther (penalty) at Downton, the experienced forward met Dougie Rowe's whipped-in cross and guided home a beautifully controlled volley.

It was the perfect way to crown a crucial 3-0 victory which kept the Millers' heads above the choppy waters of the Sydenhams Premier danger zone.

Marvelling at Puckett's ability to keep rolling back the years, Hussey smiled: "Dave already held the record as the oldest Wessex scorer when he scored for Lymington Town a couple of seasons ago. He's extended that now at the age of 53, which is going to make it even more difficult to beat!



AGE-DEFYING: Dave Puckett.

"You might lose your legs in terms of fitness as you get older, but you don't lose your ability to finish.

"It was a brilliant cross by Dougie to set Dave up and he's calmly converted it on the volley.

"The whole team celebrated with him, which was great to see."

With players in short supply at times this term, Hussey, his co-boss brother Matt and Puckett have all had minutes on the pitch.

"We don't set out for any of us to play, but at times we have to," said Hussey.

"Last week, for example, we had 16 players available but, come Saturday morning, we were down to 13 and needed someone on the bench.

"I had a knee operation a couple of weeks ago and Matt's been out a while because his partner's just had a baby.

"Dave plays regularly for a Sunday 11-a-side team, so he was the obvious one to go on."

Asked how long he felt Puckett could continue playing, Hussey replied: "As long as we're all still managing a Wessex League club!

"If he didn't feel he could affect a game, he wouldn't go out there and I wouldn't let him.

"We wouldn't play him if he couldn't hold his own and make a difference – but he does!

"After scoring at Downton he put Conor Thorne through a couple of minutes later and almost had an assist as well."

Puckett admitted a sense of satisfaction, finally seeing the ball hit the back of the net.

"I've come on six or seven times this season and I've desperately wanted to score," he said.

"I've had quite a few chances and come close. I've hit the post and seen a few saved. But I felt confident today that I would come on and equally confident that, if I did, I would get a chance.

"Dougie has put a great cross in and I'm delighted to have got another goal."

Puckett took a well-earned breather at home to Brockenhurst on Tuesday, but again T&E came out on top, 4-2.

Goals by Rowe (2), Ben Thompson and Eddie Zanin went a long way towards easing relegation fears.

Brock didn't help themselves by having goalkeeper George Passingham sent off on his debut when they were 2-1 down.

We wouldn't play him if he couldn't hold his own and make a difference – but he does!

Gosport reaching Wembley can boost Dolphins, reckons Killick

TOM Killick reckons Poole Town will reap the rewards of loan star Justin Bennett's Wembley dream – even if it cuts short his Tatnam stint.

The Dolphins renewed the Gosport Borough striker's, pictured below, temporary deal last weekend with a 24-hour release clause inserted for the duration of his second month in Dorset.

The move came shortly after Bennett's parent club beat Havant & Waterlooville last Saturday to reach the FA Trophy final at Wembley Stadium on Sunday, March 23.

It means 31-year-old Bennett – Borough's top scorer during back-to-back promotions through the Southern League over the past two seasons – can continue building up game time with Killick's side without missing out on Gosport's big day.

Killick believes the lure of a date at north London's home of football can only enhance Bennett's appetite to do well with Poole in their push for Southern Premier promotion.

"He can't hugely affect Gosport's plans, but the better he does and the more goals he scores, the more chance he has of a recall, so it can only have a positive impact," said Killick.

"But I don't think Justin needs that to motivate him. I know he is driven to score regularly for us and get some enjoyment into his game."

Killick, who bagged a brace in Wimborne Town's 1992 FA Vase triumph at Wembley under the management of current Gosport boss Alex Pike, said he would have no qualms over Bennett – who first played for Gosport on loan from Eastleigh in 2007/8 – taking the option of leaving Tatnam early to be part of Borough's big day.

"I know Justin would love to be involved and, if he gets the opportunity, he would have to snatch off their hands," he said.

"He wants to make a name for himself with us, but the Wembley thing is always going to override that to a certain extent and the FA Trophy is a whole different level to the Vase.

"When you're in your early 20s, you always think these big things will happen, but it might not get any better for many of the lads that play on the day – that's how big it is.

"In my playing days, if I had been on loan and my parent club recalled me to play at Wembley, I'd have had my bag packed before the end of the conversation.

"From the outside, I cannot comprehend the enormity of Gosport's achievement, but for an exceptional servant like Justin it might be the highlight of his career."

It was another of Poole's loan strikers, Jordan Chiedozie from AFC Bournemouth, who fired the Dolphins to victory at home to the Steelmen of Corby last Saturday. Steve Devlin opened the scoring with a stunning strike before Chiedozie netted in the 33rd and 46th minutes to set Town on their way to a 3-1 Tatnam win and keep them on the fringes of the play-off zone.

Killick said afterwards: "It's going to be a huge ask to catch (league leaders) Hemel Hempstead. We are not going to give up on that, but the play-offs are now a more realistic outcome for us.

"It would be a real under-achievement if we didn't make the play-offs and another brilliant occasion for the club if we did."

FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD – SEE PAGE 40

Non-league Football

CRUNCH RUN: Basingstoke Town boss Jason Bristow.

Huge week for Town – Bristow

BASINGSTOKE Town today kicked off a run of five big games in the space of 11 days – a period manager Jason Bristow accepts could make or break their season.

The Camrose club were hosting Maidenhead United in the Skrill Conference South this afternoon before travelling to Gosport Borough on Tuesday in the semi-finals of the Hampshire FA Senior Cup.

It's back to league action next Thursday when their rearranged trip to neighbours Farnborough will take place, and next Saturday they face the long journey to Dover Athletic before hosting Eastbourne Borough the following Tuesday.

Town went into this crucial run of games sitting tenth in the table, nine points outside the play-off zone, but with enough games in hand to have a decent chance of competing for a top-five place.

They kept themselves in contention with an excellent 1-0 win at Bath City last Saturday – right-back Nathan Smart doing the honours with a 25-yard wonder strike that crashed in off the underside of the crossbar.

Bristow admitted: "The next week or so is going to be huge in terms of where we finish this season.

"We have five games in 11 days, including a cup semi-final, and it could be a really good period that puts us in the mix or we could come out of it too far behind.

"It's going to take a good run (to make the play-offs). At the start of the season you aim for two points a game and that is what we have got to do from now until the end of the season."

Looking forward to Tuesday's cup semi-final at Gosport, Bristow added: "We are treating the games as equally important, but we believe we can make several changes and not weaken the side. We will see how Saturday (today) goes, have a look at the players and judge our selection on an individual basis.

"Gosport have shown they are a fantastic cup side by reaching the FA Trophy final at Wembley, so this will be another real test for us."

The other county cup semi-final between Havant & Waterlooville and Sydenhams Wessex flag bearers AFC Portchester takes place at Westleigh Park on Monday (March 3).

CUT YOUNG GUNS S

Youngsters need support rather than criticism – Hill

EASTLEIGH boss Richard Hill believes young footballers need support – and not criticism – while they are making their way in the game.

The Spitfires have plenty of seasoned campaigners in their ranks with the likes of Craig McAllister, Ben Stevens and Chris Todd adding valuable knowledge and experience to the club's Skrill Conference South promotion push.

But they also have a sprinkling of youngsters, one or two of whom have come in for a bit of stick of late on the fans' forum, and Hill says it's all too easy to expect an unrealistic level of maturity from footballers which is above and beyond their years.

"The senior lads like Macca and Strevens are not old men, but they've been around a bit and just get on with the job," said Hill, pictured right.

"But a large percentage of footballers are in and around the 22 to 26 bracket and we forget sometimes that they're still young men.

"Because footballers are there in the public eye, everyone treats them like fully-grown adults with the wisdom of a 40 or 50-year-old and assumes they should know what to do. But they don't and they need guidance and help.

"I've got sons of about that age and the world's a scary place when you're a young man.

"The cross-section of supporters goes right up to people in their 60s and 70s and older, adults with more of an idea about life and how things should be done, and they think it's the same for these young lads.

"But young men – and women – are still learning and sometimes we need to cut them a bit of slack.

"It's all very well people thinking they've got a right to criticise footballers because they're well paid, but I know for a fact that when you're a young player you don't get the salary of a man with a regular job – not unless you're in the Premier League or with a good Championship club.

"I know what some of the lads at Crawley Town are getting (in League One) and it's nothing like the weekly wage people in industry get.

"For some reason, people view lads differently because they're footballers.

"What I would say is that players chase this career and know what goes with it but, as a manager, I have to recognise the pressure that gets put on them."

Rather than come to him, Hill would ideally like his young guns to confide in the Spitfires' senior contingent as part of their football education and share any concerns they have.

"I wouldn't necessarily expect them to come to me. I'm just the bald, fat, horrible bloke that stands in front of them and tries to get them to win football matches," he said.

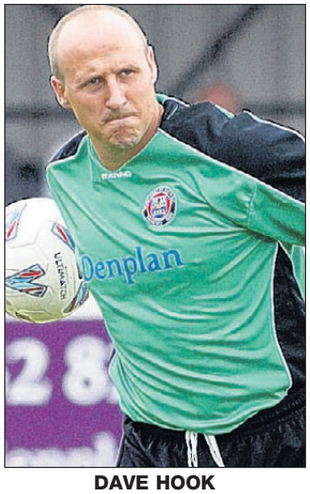
"Ideally I'd like the young ones to go to, say, Strevens, Todd or Macca for a bit of advice, but they're too proud and worried that it will be seen as a sign of weakness."

Eastleigh used a mixture of youth and maturity to get them through a tough home game, 3-2, against Maidenhead United side on Tuesday night.

Young former Farnborough striker Reece Connolly sandwiched a first-half reply between efforts from Reece Tilson-Larcaris and Matt Ruby as the Spitfires trailed 2-1 at the break.

Stuart Fleetwood mustered the leveller, leaving wily campaigner Strevens to dig out a priceless 90th-minute winner that narrowed the gap on league leaders Bromley to eight points with two games in hand.

EXPERIENCE: Eastleigh boss Richard Hill would like his young McAllister, centre, for advice.



DAVE HOOK

It was like playing against

Bowers hails Hook

IN RYAN Gosney, Follands boss Danny Bowers believes he has the best young goalkeeper in the Sydenhams Wessex League.

But when it comes to experience, he reckons there are few better than Moneyfields' veteran former Winchester City and Andover stopper Dave Hook.

Follands managed to beat Hook three times at Dover Road on Monday thanks to Alex Easton and two second-half Ryan Long strikes, including one penalty.

But although Bowers described it as "a well-fought, hard battle against a good Moneyfields side" he reckons the Planemakers' could well have doubled the 3-0 scoreline had it not been for Hook's spider-like agility.

"It was like playing against a tarantula," he laughed. "It was as if he had eight arms!"

"I was with him at Andover and he's a fantastic shot-stopper, always has been.

"The whole game was close and I'm not saying we should have won by more, but Dave Hook's made four world-class saves.

"In the first half Monkey (James Roden) has sent a header towards the top corner and Dave's managed to tip it over.

"He also touched Ryan Long's shot over and in the second half he's kept out Jamie Barron who then hit it again and he's pushed the follow-up round the post.

"Then Mike Turvey has hit one from the edge of the box looking for the top corner and the keeper's got to that one as well."

With Moneys' lethal Hutchings serving the f suspension, the hosts di ble a well-drilled Follan

"It's never easy at M but our back four were ing," said Bowers, right, afterwards.

"To be honest, I was about coming here bec were awful against Fa Saturday.

"We won 3-2, but it w game of football and th right rollicking afterwa

"The problem we have

NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? CONTACT WENDY GEE ON

Non-league Football

SOME SLACK

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struggle against the lower sides.

"We've lost to Romsey and Verwood and we struggled against Fawley.

"But tonight we've come up against a really good Moneyfields side and we've run over them. I'm really proud of the lads.

"Ryan Long's scored his goals and everyone's put in a proper shift."

It was Follands' fifth straight league win, pushing them up to fifth in the table.

"We've just got to keep our feet on the ground and carry on working hard and try and get that consistency," added Bowers.

"Alex Easton's now back after work and holiday and Jimmy Vinton's returned to training after injury and should be back in the next week or so."

BORO'S ROYALS LINK-UP COMES TOO LATE FOR HILL

FARNBOROUGH have announced a long-term joint venture with Sky Bet Championship side Reading.

Reading Ladies will be playing their league fixtures at Paddy Power Park, starting in May and, as part of the agreement, the Royals have agreed to make major pitch improvements and help maintain the Cherrywood Road playing surface.

For Eastleigh boss Richard Hill – a former Reading coach – those improvements didn't come quite soon enough.

He was disgusted with the condition of the pitch last Saturday as Eastleigh ground out a vital 1-0 victory away to their Hampshire rivals in the Skrill Conference South.

The promotion-hungry Spitfires, who desperately needed all three points to stay in touch with league leaders Bromley, made it mission accomplished thanks to a first-half winner from on-loan Salisbury City striker Ben Wright.

But, as Hill explained, it wasn't easy on a bobbly surface that made it virtually impossible to keep the ball on the deck.

Branding Boro's pitch "not acceptable for this level of football", Hill said: "There must have been park pitches in better condition than that and I found it quite disrespectful that they'd done no work on it.

"I know our pitch isn't fantastic, but we've put lots of hours in to get it in the best condition we can.

"I know we've got soft, spongy areas on ours, every pitch has after all the rain we've had. But that wasn't the problem at Farnborough, it was the fact it was so bobbly. All you could do was kick the ball as far forward as you could. You couldn't take any chances at the back.

"Both goalkeepers had problems on the floor and there was one time when it looked like the ball was going out of play, but it didn't, and Farnborough nearly scored from it.

"To me the pitch was more unplayable than some of the ones when games have been called off.

"It's another footballing contradiction: because it wasn't waterlogged, it was OK."

Commenting on Farnborough's partnership with Reading, boss Spencer Day explained: "Reading have agreed to make major improvements and maintenance to our pitch as well as other financial considerations.

"With attendances in ladies' football on the rise, this link-up will bring substantial new supporters into Paddy Power Park with all the additional revenues that will bring.

"With the imminent re-launch of our bar and new commercial kitchen, the timing of this deal is perfect.

"We have also agreed a joint initiative regarding sponsorship and advertising and working together in the long-term will be a major benefit for the area after a tough few months."

Robins take flight

STOCKBRIDGE admit their decision to resign from the Sydenhams Wessex League Division One was a painful one.

But the 120-year-old west Hampshire club say they had no choice after having the stuffing knocked out of them by two cruel body blows.

First they lost most of their players following the twin departure of managers James Banks and Terry Chapman at the end of November – just a matter of months after being appointed.

Then, having been given two weeks off by the SWL to sort themselves out, the stormy, wet weather conspired against them, resulting in 14 matches in a row being postponed.

As a result, the new squad assembled by former manager Barry Andrews didn't manage to play a game and, inevitably, some players drifted away, leaving Stockbridge with just a skeleton side.

In addition, the torrential rain has delayed the completion of the Robins' new changing rooms which are unlikely to be finished now until the end of the season.

A club statement said: "After taking a long, hard look at the situation, we concluded it was in the best interests of everyone that we declared our position early to lessen the inconvenience to other clubs in the league.

"The two new managers leaving the club at the end of November, taking all but two of our players with them, left us in a terrible predicament. Barry Andrews set about trying to get a squad together to see us through the season. He did a great job and we really appreciate all he did for us.

"However, the weather conspired against us and some of the players drifted away and we were left with 21 games to play to get through the season.

EXIT: James Banks, left, and Terry Chapman.

"With our pitch still waterlogged and unlikely to be fit for another few weeks, we could not see how we could complete our fixtures. And, with the penalty for missing each game a minimum of £250, we could not risk the club going bankrupt.

"This club has a proud 120-year history and what has happened to us hurts, especially for those of us who have been with the club for many years."

Stockbridge, though, are not about to throw the towel in.

They plan to rebuild a senior team with the aim of progressing back into the Wessex ranks as soon as possible.

"We are told the FA will decide at what level we may return next season, so not much can be done on that front until we know the position," the statement continued.

"On the positive side, we have six more local people who have joined our committee, which will strengthen the club as we work through the current problems.

"In the meantime, our four youth teams will continue to keep the flag flying for the club."

Bash on the brink

CASH-STRAPPED Bashley stand on the brink of folding after chairman Mike Cranidge called a meeting for members to vote on the club's closure.

The members-run New Forest outfit – currently bottom of the Calor Southern Premier Division – this week circulated notice of an emergency general meeting (EGM) on Thursday, March 13 to their 37-strong membership.

A statement issued by Cranidge said: "Bashley Football Club has defied logic for many years as the village soccer club that made history by attaining Southern Premier League status.

"The rise from park football to Southern Premier was driven by the enthusiasm, hard work and the investment of football-loving local business people, but these have dwindled with the ravages of time.

"More recently, the club has kept going hand-to-mouth, thanks to our main sponsor Hoburne Holiday Parks and the efforts, ingenuity and deep pockets of a handful of inexperienced but passionate volunteers.

"Although never likely to survive on gate receipts alone, the drop of income caused by the loss of so many Saturday games from bad weather plus a current lack of sponsors has put survival in doubt. This has now come to a head and Bashley is now dependant on private funding and an understanding squad to finish the season.

"Decisions are required very soon on our participation in the Southern League and FA Cups in season 2014/15 and it is very apparent that, without executive level recruitment and guaranteed sponsorship/funding, we would be unable to meet the financial obligations required.

"Bashley Football Club is a membership club run by the members and unable to raise or borrow money in the market and hence debt-free but cash poor.

"An EGM has been called to raise awareness of the situation and, if help is not forthcoming, to dissolve the club.

"On Thursday, March 13, 2014 the 37 members of Bashley Football Club will be voting on the following resolution: that unless adequate funding is forthcoming and executive vacancies filled, Bashley Football Club will have no alternative but to start proceedings to dissolve the club after the completion of the 2013/14 season (30 April 2014)."

In the meantime anyone able to assist the club in their hour of need is urged to call 07591 187663 or email *mike.cranidge@btinternet.com*

Pompey v Saints key to team spirit

WITH a heady mix of players from Southampton and Portsmouth, it is no wonder that Gosport Borough have such an infectious team camaraderie.

Romsey-born Tim Sills, who scored all three of Gosport's semi-final goals, lives in Poole, while Andy Forbes is based in Reading.

But most of the players come from either side of the great Hampshire divide.

"It's the cause of a lot of friendly banter – we often play Pompey v Southampton at five-a-side in training because it's a pretty even split," smiles assistant manager Mick Catlin.

"The way the lads have bonded has been really special and that team spirit has carried us through."

Hedge End-based Danny Smith, pictured below, the former AFC Bournemouth midfielder who captained Winchester City to their FA Vase triumph in 2004, was a key player in the semi-final.

"Over the two legs I thought Danny was our man-of-the-match, he's a defensive midfielder which isn't a glory position but he's very disciplined and when he's out we miss him," said Catlin.

"He had a hamstring injury leading

up to the first-leg and we were desperate to get him back."

Gosport's run has captured the imagination of other clubs, with Winchester City even planning to take a coach-load to support Smith and Forbes, who was a prolific goalscorer for the last Hampshire non-league team to win a national cup.

"Forbesy can play in any position, bar goalkeeper, but he could probably do that very well too," says Catlin.

"He reads the game very well and has played for us at right-back and centre-forward.

"But he's had to play at left-back in the Trophy as [former Saints trainee] Brett Poate has been needed at centre-half with Ian Richardson cup-tied."

Southampton barber Adam Wilde, reserve-team goalkeeper Gareth Barfoot and former GE Hamble winger Rory Williams are all from the red half of Hampshire.

So too is Mike Gosney, who has Wembley experience as an FA Vase runner-up with AFC Totton against Truro City in 2007.

The left-winger played a more central role against Havant, which Catlin believed was key to the shock 3-1 aggregate win against a Hawks side 11 points better off in the Conference South.

"Gos played a slightly different role in the semi-final, just off Tim Sills, and personally I think that was the tactic that undid Havant.

"They didn't think we would play that way."

Non-league Football

CATLIN'S RELISHING

Assistant boss to lead Borough out before FA Trophy final

Simon Walter
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THERE will be no prouder man than Gosport Borough's Mick Catlin when Hampshire's first FA Trophy finalists take the field at Wembley later this month.

The champagne was still flowing following last week's dramatic semi-final against Havant & Waterlooville when manager Alex Pike revealed that his assistant will have the honour of leading Gosport out before their big game against Cambridge United on Sunday, March 23.

"Mick's the most loyal person, a great friend and he thoroughly deserves it," explained Pike.

But they have not always been so close.

"I didn't used to like Alex, he always tried to wind me up when I was manager of Andover," laughs Catlin.

"We had a few disagreements and once I even took him to the Hampshire FA for tapping up one of my players!

"But I think he liked the fact that I always stood up for myself and had something about me.

"We complement each other well."

Pike's five-year partnership with Catlin has helped Gosport to back-to-back Southern League promotions as well as a Wembley appearance.

"I didn't think it would last long," smiles Catlin. "But here we are, five years later!"

Gosport were a perennial Wessex club when Pike took over in 2005 and have won promotion from the Southern League (S & W) to the Premier and Conference South since he joined forces with Catlin, a former Gosport midfielder who cut his managerial teeth with Petersfield, Fleet Town and Havant & Waterlooville's reserve team.

Catlin is in his second spell as Gosport's assistant manager, having left Privett Park for Andover when John Robson was sacked and replaced by Pike eight years ago.

Pike will become the first manager to win both of non-league's major cup competitions, 22 years after winning the Vase with Wimborne Town, should Gosport pull off arguably the biggest upset in the Trophy's 44-year history.

But Catlin has played just as important a role, Pike himself having described him as more like a co-manager than an assistant.

"Alex always makes the final decisions, but likes me to get on with looking after the players and the tactical side of things," he explained.

"He's very good at motivating and dealing with the chairman and the press, which can be very time consuming because the media attention has doubled with each promotion.

"If you get too tied up in that, the team gets neglected."

Unlike most Conference South managers, Catlin and Pike also have their own day jobs.

"We've both got our own companies, which helps," says Catlin, who runs Guttercare, an aluminium gutter installation company, while Pike owns a sportswear business.

"It was quite difficult to motivate myself to go back to work on Monday morning, the phone was still going every five minutes with texts, tweets and facebook messages.

"I had to put it in the van so I could concentrate on working!

"But getting to Wembley makes all the hours you put in worthwhile and the cup run's been good for business."

Cambridge United will be the second Conference Premier club the Hampshire side have faced in the Trophy.

Gosport's cup run began with a qualifying-round win against Dorchester Town before wins against Concord Rangers (1-0), Conference Premier outfit

WEMBLEY HERE WE COME: Gosport fans invade the pitch.

EASTLEIGH v WESTON-SUPER-MARE MATCH

Non-league Football

WEMBLEY HONOUR

WEMBLEY HERE WE COME: Tim Sills (9) heads a Gosport goal against Havant last weekend. Left – assistant boss Mick Catlin.

Nuneaton Town (4-2 on penalties after two goalless draws) and Hungerford Town (1-0) secured a place in the last eight.

It was before last month's 2-1 quarter-final win at North Ferriby that Catlin was told he would lead the team out at Wembley.

"I tried not to even think about it as I didn't want to get over excited until, with a few minutes left against Havant, I double checked that Alex wasn't joking!

"It's a great gesture and I'll be very proud.

"It's difficult to put into words, it's beyond our wildest dreams but Alex has been saying we would get to Wembley all season so we've had belief throughout.

"If you say something often enough people start to believe it and everyone started to believe.

"He's such a great motivator, it rubbed off on everyone else.

"And over the two legs I thought we were the better side in the semi-final.

"It's a massive achievement for everyone involved."

REPORT – SEE PAGE 19

Pompey striker to face Gosport

GOSPORT Borough are almost certain to find themselves up against a current Pompey player when they step out at Wembley for the FA Trophy final later this month.

Ryan Bird, 26, scored three League 2 goals for Pompey in 18 outings – 13 of them as a sub – prior to joining Cambridge United on loan in January.

Bird struck twice on his U's debut in a 3-3 draw at Dartford and also grabbed all three of his new club's goals in the Trophy semi-finals.

The former Burnham forward scored both as Cambridge won the first leg against Grimsby 2-1 at The Abbey Stadium, and also opened the scoring in last weekend's 1-1 second leg draw at Blundell Park.

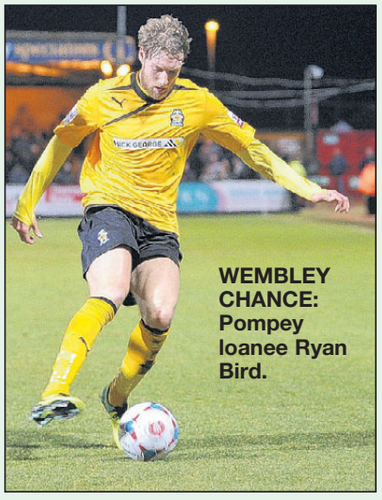
Bird's arrival has co-incided with a dip in Cambridge's Conference Premier form that has almost certainly cost them a chance of the title.

After winning at Tamworth on January 21, Richard Money's men were only a point adrift of leaders Luton with a game in hand.

After losing to Braintree earlier this week, stretching their run to just two wins in eight league matches, Cambridge are now 14 points adrift of the Hatters with a game in hand.

Luton are heading back to the Football League after a five-year absence, having won 12 of their last 13 league games, scoring 46 goals in the process.

They have scored 17 and conceded none in their last three, culminating in Tuesday's 5-0 thrashing of a Wrexham side containing ex-Saint Brett Ormerod.



WEMBLEY CHANCE: Pompey loanee Ryan Bird.

As for Bird, he has confirmed that Grimsby were interested in taking him on a short-term deal before he decided to choose Cambridge for purely geographical reasons.

"One of my pals at Portsmouth said that someone had rung and asked whether I would be interested in going there," he said.

"But Grimsby is a million miles away for me, and Cambridge came in as well, so I was more inclined to go there.

"It wasn't really an option even though they'd had a look at me. It was an easy decision, just because of the distances involved."

Bird continued: "I'm just looking forward to Wembley now – it's going to be brilliant.

"I never thought I'd get the chance to play there, and perhaps we can go there in the play-off final as well."

Bird is by no means guaranteed a starting role in the Wembley showpiece, as United have other strikers too such as Matt Barnes-Homer and Ashley Chambers.

Barnes-Homer and Chambers are also recent recruits, having only arrived in January from Forest Green Rovers and York City respectively.

Cambridge's top Conference scorer this season is Kwesi Appiah, who scored ten goals in 13 starts in the first few months of the campaign. But he was only on loan from Crystal Palace and is now out on loan again at League 1 club Notts County.

TYRO LEAGUE STANDINGS

(do not include this weekend's games)

U11 – Division 1 East

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Sholing Youth	13	13	0	0	39
Winchester Youth Black	11	9	1	1	28
Warsash Wasps	13	8	1	4	25
Littleton Juniors Lions	13	6	2	5	20
Eastleigh Juniors	12	4	1	7	13
H. E. Youth	12	3	3	6	12
Netley Royals	12	3	1	8	10
Soccer4all Tigers	12	2	1	9	7
Sarisbury Sparks Amber	12	1	2	9	5

Division 2 East

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Colden Common Rovers	12	9	0	3	27
Winchester Youth Blue	12	8	0	4	24
Sarisbury Sparks Black	11	6	2	3	20
Sarisbury Sparks White	11	6	2	3	20
Soccer4all Lions	10	6	1	3	19
St Francis Knights	12	5	3	4	18
Bitterne Youth Red	12	5	0	7	15
Bitterne Youth Black	11	1	0	10	3
Wyvern Saints	11	1	0	10	3

Division 3 East

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Alresford Town	13	11	2	0	35
Colden Common Rangers	12	10	1	1	31
Hedge End Rangers Blue	12	7	3	2	24
Botley Village	12	7	1	4	22
Littleton Juniors Leopards	12	4	0	8	12
Pirelli Pirates	11	4	0	7	12
Chamberlayne Athletic	12	5	1	6	10
AFC Stoneham	13	2	0	11	6
City Central	11	0	0	11	0

Division 1 West

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Hythe & Dibden Neons	10	7	2	1	23
Oakwood Terriers	11	7	1	3	22
Pace Pumas	11	6	2	3	20
AFC Hiltingbury Hawks	10	6	1	3	19
Oakwood Harriers	11	5	2	4	17
Stoke Park Rangers Black	12	5	2	5	17
Baddesley Park	11	4	1	6	13
Stoke Park Rangers Red	12	3	3	6	12
Pace Panthers	12	0	0	12	0

Division 2 West

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Romsey Town Cougars	12	9	2	1	29
Salisbury City	11	9	1	1	28
Southside AFC	12	8	2	2	26
Brendonbushill Youth Red	11	6	2	3	20
Winsor United Sports	11	6	1	4	19
Oakwood Pumas	12	4	1	7	13
Hythe Strikers Hurricanes	12	3	3	6	12
Wellow Youth Wolves	11	1	0	10	3
AFC Hiltingbury Hornets	12	0	0	12	0

Division 3 West

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Oakwood Saints	12	11	1	0	34
Wellow Youth Wasps	12	10	0	2	30
Romsey Town Panthers	12	8	0	4	24
Hythe Strikers Spitfires	11	7	1	3	22
Fawley Falcons	11	3	1	7	10
Stoke Park Rangers White	12	3	1	8	10
Brendonbushill Youth Black	12	2	2	8	8
AFC Hiltingbury Harriers	12	0	0	12	0

U12 – Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Eastleigh Juniors Whites	10	8	2	0	26
Hedge End Rangers Blue	9	6	0	3	18
Bitterne Youth Blacks	7	5	2	0	17
Salisbury City	10	4	2	4	14
Pace Panthers	8	3	1	4	10
Winchester Youth Black	9	2	2	5	8
Pace Pumas	11	1	2	8	5
Sportstars	8	1	1	6	4

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Southbrook FC	7	7	0	0	21
Warsash Wasps	10	6	2	2	20
Eastleigh Juniors Blue	10	6	1	3	19
Totton & Eling	11	6	0	5	18
Hamble United Orange	8	3	0	5	9
Littleton Juniors Lions	10	2	0	8	6
Sarisbury Sparks Amber	8	0	1	7	1

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Botley Village	11	9	1	1	28
Southbrook United	8	7	1	0	22
Colden Common Rangers	11	5	3	3	18
Littleton Juniors Leopards	8	4	1	3	13
Fleming Park Tigers	9	3	1	5	10
Hythe & Dibden Vikings	11	3	1	7	10
Weston Warriors	9	3	1	5	10
Oakwood Red	11	0	1	10	1

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Hamble United Reds	8	8	0	0	24
Bitterne Youth Reds	9	6	1	2	19
St Francis Rangers	10	6	1	3	19
Colden Common Royals	10	5	2	3	17
Romsey Town	9	5	1	3	16
Baddesley Park	9	2	1	6	7
Testwood United Dragoons	12	1	3	8	6
Kingsway Colts	11	1	1	9	4

Division 5

	P	W	D	L	Pts
AFC Stoneham	13	9	1	3	28
AFC Hiltingbury Hawks	11	8	1	2	25
Wellow Youth	9	7	1	1	22
Wyvern Youth Dragons	10	7	0	3	21
Winsor United Sports	11	5	0	6	15
Stoke Park Rangers	12	3	2	7	11
BTC Southampton	11	3	1	7	10
S & D Youth	13	0	0	13	0

Division 6

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Sholing Youth	11	10	0	1	30
Alresford Town	10	8	0	2	24
Lakewood Youth	9	6	0	3	18
Fawley Falcons	12	5	0	7	15
Southside AFC	11	3	0	8	9
Hedge End Rangers Red	10	2	0	8	6
Netley Royals	9	2	0	7	6

U13 – Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Eastleigh Juniors	9	6	2	1	20
Pace Youth	10	6	1	3	19
Colden Common Rovers	8	5	1	2	16
Sholing Youth White	9	5	0	4	15
Hedge End Rangers Blue	8	3	2	3	11
Stockbridge FC	7	3	2	2	11
Warsash Wasps	9	2	0	7	6
Q K Southampton	10	1	0	9	3

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Oakwood Panthers	8	8	0	0	24
Sholing Youth Red	10	7	2	1	23

Non-league Football

MAN WHO KEEPS THE

IN August 1987 the English football landscape was markedly different to that which exists today.

Liverpool were nine months away from supplanting Everton as league champions, ***writes PAUL McNAMARA.***

Wimbledon, Luton Town and Oxford United featured among 21 top-flight teams, while Eastleigh, seven years after a change of name from Swaythling, were members of the Wessex League

Meanwhile, just days past his 18th birthday, Andy Cook was making his debut for home town club Southampton, against a Manchester United side under the charge of 45-year-old Scotsman Alex Ferguson.

For Cook, now the physiotherapist at Eastleigh, the memories of a personally monumental day haven't dwindled with time.

"It was a dream debut really, in terms of the team we were playing, Manchester United, and the fact it was the first game of the season," he recalled.

"It was a packed Dell and the atmosphere was fantastic.

"I've got very happy memories of it.

"I was more or less marking Gordon Strachan, so it was a decent Man Utd team."

The identity of a number of the individuals in that United outfit suggests that they were more than 'decent'.

Magisterial Irish defender Paul McGrath and England's 'Captain Marvel' Bryan Robson were part of a side that left The Dell on the back of a keenly contested 2-2 draw – "a decent result", according to Cook.

The exceptional Norman Whiteside, a player who was denied by a host of injuries from ever fulfilling his outstanding potential, scored both Red Devils' goals.

With his career finished at 26 years of age, Whiteside, fascinated by the intricacies of the frame that had continued to fail him, qualified as a podiatrist.

Fate decreed that the young left-back, thrust into Southampton's first-team after seven years spent growing up at the club, would be similarly plagued by injury.

The common ground between the two players doesn't end there.

Cook's interest in the body and its rehabilitation was spiked by the hours, days and weeks spent undergoing his various recovery programmes.

"A few," is Cook's response, laughing when considering how many setbacks he faced during his career.

"At Southampton, specifically, I had a lot of hamstring problems.

"I can look back now and say it was related to a back problem that I ultimately had an operation on when I was at Saints.

"I had a discectomy to remove a disc. That was in pre-season leading up to my final few months there.

"I suffered a broken leg. I had five groin operations, a knee operation, and two ankle ops – so plenty of injuries throughout my playing career."

Regardless of the various ailments that halted Cook's, pictured right, progress across the four years after his debut, the Romsey born 44-year-old is in no doubt that his time at the Saints was the happiest period of a playing voyage that also took in stops at Exeter City,

BACK IN THE COLOURS: Andy Cook, right, in action for the Ex-Saints Legends.

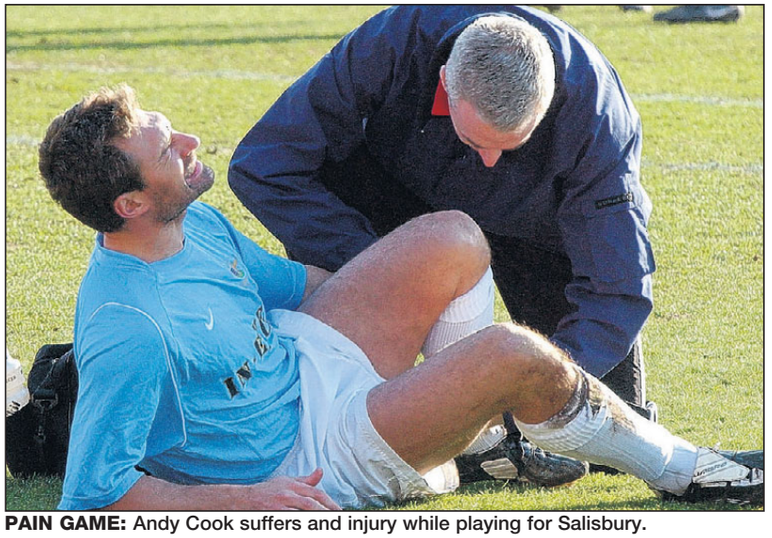
Cook's journey from Saints left-back to Eastleigh physio

MORE NON-LEAGUE ON PAGES 32-37 AND 42-43

Non-league Football

SPITFIRES FLYING

FORMER TEAMMATES: Matthew Le Tissier Andy Cook.



PAIN GAME: Andy Cook suffers and injury while playing for Salisbury.

YOUNGER DAYS: Andy Cook playing for Saints.

Swansea City, Portsmouth and Millwall.

"They're my home club and I'd been there from the age of 11, training on a regular basis in the gym at the Dell," he said. "I came up through the nursery team, schoolboy, apprentice, and then pro at 17."

Cook's body might have proven his undoing with respect to playing regular football, but that was a circumstance which he resolved to turn in his favour.

"As a player you want consistency. You need to be able to consistently train and play.

"If you get back, play ten or 15 games, and then pick up another injury that keeps you out for another couple of months, it's very difficult.

"It's like you're doing pre-season over and over again. My whole playing career was stop-start, I suppose.

"I spent so much time in rehab and the treatment room, then subsequently in post-operative rehabilitation, that it gave me an insight into that side of the game.

"I'd been at five league clubs and seen the way different people work. Those experiences definitely pointed me in that direction."

It was during his time at Portsmouth that Cook encountered Keith Waldon, then a physio at Fratton Park and vice-chairman of the Society of Sports Therapists.

Continued on page 43

GIRLS' FOOTBALL – SEE PAGES 40-41

	P	W	D	L	Pts
AFC Stoneham Red	9	6	2	1	20
Botley Village	9	5	2	2	17
Romsey Town Panthers	11	3	2	6	11
Colden Common Royals	11	3	0	8	9
Hedge End Rangers White	11	2	1	8	7
City Central	11	1	1	9	4

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	Pts
St Francis Rangers	9	6	2	1	20
Colden Common Rangers	9	6	1	2	19
Baddesley Park	9	5	1	3	16
Bitterne Youth Blacks	10	3	2	5	11
Ice Sports	7	3	2	2	11
Winchester Youth	11	3	2	6	11
Hythe & Dibden Phoenix	11	1	2	8	5

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Hamble United	11	9	0	2	27
St Francis Rovers	11	9	0	2	27
Michelmersh & Timsbury	12	8	1	3	25
Oakwood Eagles	11	8	1	2	25
Fair Oak	13	4	0	9	12
AFC Hiltingbury	13	3	2	8	11
Winsor United Sports	12	3	1	8	10
Hythe Strikers	13	1	1	11	4

Division 5

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Southside AFC	12	12	0	0	36
Hythe & Dibden Legends	11	8	0	3	24
AFC Stoneham Blue	12	7	2	3	23
Romsey Town Cougars	13	7	1	5	22
Bitterne Youth Reds	11	5	2	4	17
Fawley Falcons	12	4	1	7	13
Rodaway Rovers	12	2	2	8	8
FC Southampton	10	1	1	8	4
Sarisbury Sparks	11	1	1	9	4

U14 – Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Eastleigh Juniors	12	8	1	3	25
Pace Cougars	9	7	0	2	21
Q K Southampton	8	5	0	3	15
Sportstars	11	4	1	6	13
Warsash Wasps	11	3	3	5	12
BTC Southampton	8	2	3	3	9
Oaklands Rangers	9	0	2	7	2

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Sholing Youth	9	7	0	2	21
Winchester Youth Black	6	6	0	0	18
Hedge End Rangers Blue	8	5	1	2	16
Baddesley Park Crusaders	9	4	1	4	13
Wellow Youth	9	3	1	5	10
Hamble United	8	3	0	5	9
Botley Village	11	2	2	7	8
Sky Blues	8	1	1	6	4

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Compton Youth	10	10	0	0	30
Ice Sports	9	6	1	2	19
Littleton Juniors Lions	12	5	2	5	17
C Common Rangers	11	4	4	3	16
Romsey Tn Panthers	10	3	2	5	11
Hythe & Dibden Vipers	10	3	1	6	10
Oakwood Lions	13	3	1	9	10
AFC Hiltingbury Hawks	9	2	1	6	7

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	Pts
AFC Stoneham	11	9	0	2	27
Southside AFC	11	8	2	1	26
Hythe Strikers	12	7	1	4	22
Hythe & Dibden Turbos	11	5	3	3	18
Chamberlayne Athletic	12	5	2	5	17
Hedge End Rangers White	10	4	2	4	14
Sarisbury Sparks Black	11	2	0	9	6
Sarisbury Sparks Amber	12	0	0	12	0

Division 5

	P	W	D	L	Pts
AFC Hiltingbury Hurricanes	14	9	3	2	30
Winsor United Sports	14	9	2	3	29
Stoke Park Rangers	11	8	1	2	25
AFC Hiltingbury Harriers	12	6	2	4	20
Romsey Town Cougars	13	6	1	6	19
Townhill Lingland	15	6	1	8	19
Bitterne Youth	12	3	2	7	11
S & D Youth	11	2	1	8	7
Baddesley Park Knights	12	1	1	10	4

U15 – Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Pace Pumas	11	8	1	2	25
Hedge End Rangers Blue	9	7	1	1	22
Wyvern Youth	9	7	0	2	21
Winchester Youth Black	9	6	0	3	18
BTC Southampton Nimrods	8	3	1	4	10
Pirelli Pirates	12	3	0	9	9
St Francis Rangers	10	3	0	7	9
Salisbury City	12	1	1	10	4

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Pace Panthers	13	8	3	2	27
Romsey Town Cougars	9	8	1	0	25
Colden Common Rangers	11	7	2	2	23
Sarisbury Sparks Amber	12	7	0	5	21
Hedge End Rangers White	9	6	0	3	18
Warsash Wasps	12	5	2	5	17
Testwood United	14	3	4	7	13
AFC Hiltingbury Hawks	11	1	0	10	3
Sarisbury Sparks Black	11	0	0	11	0

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Townhill Lingland	13	8	3	2	27
Alresford Town	14	7	4	3	25
Southside AFC	15	7	4	4	25
Q K Southampton	12	7	3	2	24
Hythe & Dibden Jets	10	7	2	1	23
Winchester Youth Blue	12	6	2	4	20
Oakwood Tigers	13	3	1	9	10
AFC Stoneham	12	2	1	9	7
Totton & Eling	15	1	0	14	3

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Follands FC	15	13	1	1	40
Brookhill Youth	12	10	1	1	31
Michelmersh & Timsbury	13	9	1	3	28
Sportstars	10	6	2	2	20
Botley Village	12	6	1	5	19
Wyvern Youth Dragons	13	5	1	7	16
Netley Royals	13	4	1	8	13
Hythe Strikers Hurricanes	11	4	0	7	12
Brendonbushill Youth	14	1	0	13	3
Marchwood Rangers	13	1	0	12	3

Division 5

	P	W	D	L	Pts
S & D Youth	14	12	1	1	37
Hedge End Rangers Red	12	10	0	2	30
Pirelli Pirates Crusaders	13	9	1	3	28
Hythe Strikers Spitfires	12	6	0	6	18
St Francis Rovers	9	6	0	3	18
Winsor United Sports	13	6	0	7	18
Baddesley Park	13	3	0	10	9
Romsey Town Panthers	13	2	0	11	6
Bitterne Youth	13	1	0	12	3

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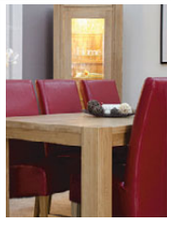

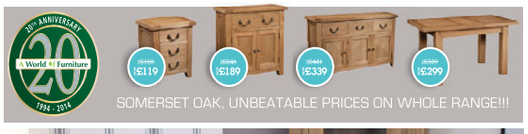

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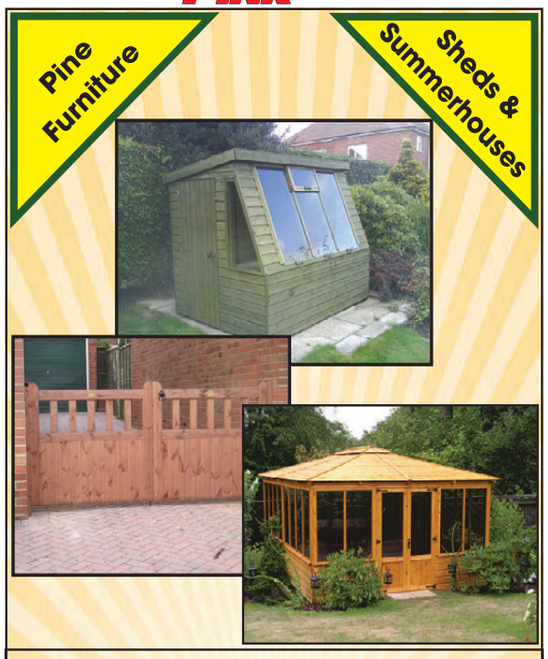

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Non-league Football

Did You Know?

PREVIOUS FA VASE FINALS

(At Wembley, unless otherwise stated)

1974–75: Hoddesdon Town 2 Epsom & Ewell 1

1975–76: Billericay Town 1 Stamford 0

1976–77: Billericay Town 1 Sheffield 1 (aet). Replay: Billericay Town 2 Sheffield 1 (City Ground, Nottingham)

1977–78: Blue Star 2 Barton Rovers 1

1978–79: Billericay Town 4 Almondsbury Greenway 1

1979–80: Stamford 2 Guisborough Town 0

1980–81: Whickham 3 Willenhall Town 2 (aet)

1981–82: Forest Green Rovers 3 Rainworth Miners Welfare 0

1982–83: VS Rugby 1 Halesowen 0

1983–84: Stansted 2 Stamford 0

1984–85: Halesowen Town 3 Fleetwood Town 1

1985–86: Halesowen Town 3 Southall 0

1986–87: St Helens Town 3 Warrington Town 2

FLASHBACK: Tommy Killick in action for Wimborne in the 1992 FA Vase final.

1987–88: Colne Dynamoes 1 Emley 0 (aet)

1988–89: Tamworth 1 Sudbury Town 1 (aet). Replay: Tamworth 3 Sudbury 0 (London Road, Peterborough)

1989–90: Yeading 0 Bridlington Town 0 (aet). Replay: Yeading 1 Bridlington Town 0 (Elland Road, Leeds)

1990–91: Guiseley 4 Gresley Rovers 4 (aet). Replay: Guiseley 3 Gresley Rovers 1 (Bramall Lane, Sheffield)

1991–92: Wimborne Town 5 Guiseley 3

1992–93: Bridlington Town 1 Tiverton Town 0

1993–94: Diss Town 2 Taunton Town 1 (aet)

Continued on facing page

FLASHBACK TO FA PIKE'S WIMBORNE

SHOLING are bidding to become only the fourth Wessex League club to reach the FA Vase final.

The Boatmen booked a quarter final home tie against Wisbech when Lee Wort's strike gave them victory against Larkhall at Portsmouth Road last weekend.

Dave Diaper's men are aiming to follow in the footsteps of the two former Wessex Vase winners.

Alex Pike's Wimborne were the first Dorset club to ever win at Wembley in any major cup final in 1991/92.

Neil Hards guided Winchester City to the Vase in 2003/04.

In addition, AFC Totton reached the 2006/07 final only to lose 3-1 to Truro in one of the first games ever staged at the rebuilt Wembley.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks back at which local clubs have fared the best in all the previous FA Vase campaigns.

1974/75
Brockenhurst were the first Hampshire League club to reach the fourth round in the inaugural Vase competition, prior to losing 4-1 at home to Stamford.

1975/76
Gosport Borough reached the fourth round before suffering a 4-1 home loss to Hampshire rivals Farnborough Town.

MEMORABLE: Alex Pike lifts the Vase after Wimborne's 1992 win. Left – Lee Wort is congratulated after scoring Sholing's winner against Larkhall last weekend.

1976/77
Tony Brickwood's Gosport Borough, that season's Hampshire League champions, reached the fifth round before a 3-1 replay defeat at Barton Rovers.

1977/78
Gosport Borough, who won the Hampshire League again for the second season running this term, reached the third round before losing 2-1 at Newbury, who in turn were beaten 1-0 at home by Burnham in the next round.

1978/79
Gosport Borough, now in the Southern League, reached the last 16 before a 4-3 replay defeat at eventual finalists Almondsbury Greenway.

1979/80
Newport IoW were the Hampshire League side to progress the furthest, reaching the fourth round before losing 2-1 at Hungerford Town.

1980/81
Sholing Sports, third in the Hampshire League that season, marched to the third round before suffering a 4-1 home loss to Devizes Town.

1981/82
Hampshire Leaguers Sholing Sports, second in their table that season, reached the fourth round or the first time before losing 2-0 at Shortwood.

1982/83
AFC Totton, second in the Hampshire League that season, reached the last 16 before a 1-0 loss at holders Forest Green Rovers.

1983/84
Road Sea Southampton, in their first ever season in the Vase, reached the fifth round before losing 2-1 at Leyton Wingate.

1984/85
Sholing Sports reached the third round before losing 4-2 at home to Bristol Manor Farm.Wimborne Town, then in the Western League, went out at the same stage, 1-0 at Old Georgians.

1985/86
Havant Town, then a Hampshire League club, won through seven rounds before losing 5-1 at home to Wisbech in the fifth round.On their way to the last 16 they thrashed Sholing Sports 10-0.

THE PINK AND DAILY ECHO: BEST FOR NON-LEAGUE COVERAGE

Non-league Football

VASE TRIUMPHS ...

CITY SLICKERS: Winchester lift the FA Vase at St Andrews in May 2004.

GOT PLACE IN HISTORY

1986/87
In the first season of the Wessex League, fifth placed Havant Town went furthest in the Vase. They reached the fifth round for the second season running before losing a replay 5-4 at home to Collier Row.

1987/88
Bashley became the first Wessex club to reach the semi-finals of the Vase. Having drawn 1-1 against Emley in the New Forest, Bash were beaten by a single goal in the second leg in Yorkshre.

1988/89
Bashley reached the quarter finals before losing 2-0 at Sudbury Town. Sudbury thrashed Hungerford 6-0 on aggregate in the semi-finals before losing 3-0 to Tamworth in the final.

1989/90
Bashley were again the last Wessex club left in the Vase, losing 2-1 at north Londoners Harefield United in the fifth round.

1990/91
Eastleigh reached the fourth round before succumbing 1-0 at home to Littlehampton Town.

1991/92
Wimborne Town famously became the first Wessex League club to win the FA Vase.

In a thrilling final, they came from behind to beat favourites and holders Guiseley 5-3 at Wembley.

Taffy Richardson, still going strong for Bournemouth Poppies aged 47, skippered Alex Pike's Magpies into the history books.

After Yorkshire club Guiseley had gone ahead early on, the Dorset club hit back through goals from Tommy Killick (2), Jamie Sturgess (2) and Richardson.

Pike said the key to his side's famous Wembley win was belief in their own ability.

"We were 1-0 down early on but we didn't panic," he recalled in an interview with the *Sports Pink* three years ago.

"And we were lucky when five minutes after they scored Tommy

Continued on page 34

ALL TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS: PAGE 48

Did You Know?

1994–95: Arlesey Town 2 Oxford City 1

1995–96: Brigg Town 3 Clitheroe 0

1996–97: Whitby Town 3 North Ferriby United 0

1997–98: Tiverton Town 1 Tow Law Town 0

1998–99: Tiverton Town 1 Bedlington Terriers 0

1999–2000: Deal Town 1 Chippenham Town 0

2000–01: Taunton Town 2 Berkhamsted Town 1(Villa Park, Aston Villa)

2001–02: Whitley Bay 1 Tiptree United 0 (Villa Park, Aston Villa)

2002–03: Brigg Town 2 A.F.C. Sudbury 1 (Upton Park, West Ham)

2003–04: Winchester City 2 A.F.C.

VASE WINNER: Danny Smith in 2004.

Sudbury 0 (St Andrew's, Birmingham City)

2004–05: Didcot Town 3 A.F.C. Sudbury 2 (White Hart Lane, Tottenham)

2005–06: Nantwich Town 3 Hillingdon Borough 1 (St Andrew's, Birmingham City)

2006–07: Truro City 3 A.F.C. Totton 1

2007–08: Kirkham & Wesham 2 Lowestoft Town 1

2008–09: Whitley Bay 2 Glossop North End 0

2009–10: Whitley Bay 6 Wroxham 1

2010–11: Whitley Bay 3 Coalville Town 2

2011–12: Dunston UTS 2 West Auckland Town 0

2012–13: Spennymoor Town 2 Tunbridge Wells 1

● WHITLEY Bay are the only club in history to have won the FA Vase four times. The north east club's run of wins includes three succesive triumphs between 2008/09 and 2010/11 inclusive.

Billericay Town are the only club to have won three Vases, winning all their trophies in the first five seasons of the competition in the 1970s.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Farrell well chuffed for Gosport

BLACKFIELD & Langley assistant boss Chris Farrell says he is "absolutely chuffed" that his old buddy Alex Pike has booked a return to trip to Wembley.

Farrell, right-hand man to ex-Saint Kevin Gibbens at Gang Warily, first met Pike 17 years ago when he moved down to the Dorset area from the Midlands.

Pike was already something of a local celebrity by then, having famously led Wimborne Town to glory under the north London's twin towers in the 1992 FA Vase final.

And Farrell had a feeling in his bones that a second Wembley appearance was beckoning for Pike, pictured below, when Borough drew local Portsmouth rivals Havant & Waterlooville in the FA Trophy semi-final.

His instincts proved spot on, with Gosport following up a stubborn 1-1 draw at Westleigh Park with a momentous 2-0 second-leg victory over the Hawks at Privett Park last Saturday.

"Alex proved me right and I'm absolutely chuffed to bits for him," said Farrell.

"When I moved down from the Midlands, I was loosely associated with Hamworthy United when Alex was manager there and I did a bit of scouting for him.

"When Alex went off to Gosport, Phil Simkin (Pike's Hamworthy successor) asked me to step in as his number two."

Farrell also extended his congratulations to Sydenhams Premier Division rivals Sholing, who succeeded where Blackfield failed by knocking Toolstation Western Premier top dogs Larkhall Athletic out of the FA Vase on Saturday.

Blackfield were going through some turbulent times behind the scenes when beaten 3-0 in the fourth round proper at Larkhall's Plain Ham stronghold in mid-January.

The Larks also gave Sholing's defence a thorough examination at Portsmouth Road last Saturday, but the Boatmen brilliantly held their nerve to book their place in the quarter-finals thanks to an extra-time winner from goal machine Lee Wort.

Farrell said: "I spoke to Dave (Sholing boss Dave Diaper) on Saturday morning and said not to take Larkhall lightly because their front six have really good movement and move the ball around quickly. They all buzz round their centre-forward Tyler Sibbick.

"I knew it would be a hard game for Sholing but, credit where credit's due, they've come through with the win."

From page

Killick put in a cross which got taken by the wind and hit a post.

"The players instantly thought 'we can do this'. That gave them the belief, and we were 3-1 up at half-time."

All these years on, what remains Pike's lasting memory of his greatest day? "Breaking my vow of not drinking," he laughed. "I was thrown in the bath at Wembley and I drank a bottle of champagne too quickly.

"I don't remember too much after that."

Richardson has recalled how Pike took his squad up to their pre-final hotel on the Wednesday before the Saturday final.

"It was all very relaxed," he remembered. "We trained a bit, we went out a few nights, it was all very enjoyable. We went to the pub a few times, no nightclubs. There were no restrictions placed on us.

"I remember we went to a karaoke evening – Mark Allen and Jason Lovell did a memorable rendition of the Bee Gees!"

In the semi-final, Wimborne had beaten Bamber Bridge 2-0 at Cuthbury in the second leg after a goalless away draw.

The Magpies' unlikely two-goal hero in the second leg was defender Trevor Ames, a local hairdresser.

Ironically, Adam Wilde – who scored one of the goals which took Pike's Gosport to the FA Trophy final last weekend – is also a hairdresser, in Southampton!

MEMORIES OF

AGONY: Dejection for Poole Town as Whitley Bay score again in their FA Vase semi final in 2011.

1992/93
Not a great season for Wessex League clubs, with only Bemerton reaching the third round before losing 2-1 at Clevedon Town.

1993/94
Newbury Town's dream of reaching the semi-finals was dashed when they lost a sixth round tie 2-0 at eventual losing finalists Taunton.

Wimborne, bidding for a second Vase win in three seasons, had reached the fifth round before a 1-0 loss at Aldershot Town – the club that had been created out of the ashes of Aldershot's Football League demise two seasons earlier.

1994/95
It was Eastleigh's turn again to carry the Wessex flag, reaching the fourth round stage before losing 3-1 at home to the Metropolitan Police.

1995/96
AFC Lymington, runners-up in the Wessex that season, reached the fourth round before losing 3-1 at home to Torpoint Athletic.

1996/97
Thatcham, who finished third in the Wessex League that season, were beaten 1-0 at home in the fourth round by Tiverton.

Bemerton suffered a similar loss at home to Collier Row & Romford in the same round.

1997/98
AFC Lymington were the last Wessex side in the Vase, reaching the fifth round before losing 3-2 at Staffordshire club Kidsgrove.

1998/99
Lymington & New Milton reached the last 16, only to lose 3-1 at Taunton.

1999/2000
Two Wessex clubs reached the fifth round, only to suffer heavy defeats. AFC Totton were thumped 5-0 at Bedlington Terriers, the previous season's finalists, while Cowes Sports were hammered 7-0 at home by Taunton.

2000/01
Three Wessex clubs reached the fourth round, but none progressed beyond the last 32 after suffering home losses. AFC Totton were beaten 2-0 by Chippenham, Wimborne lost 4-2 to Clitheroe, and Brockenhurst were thumped 4-1 by Taunton.

2001/02
Bemerton carried the Wessex flag as far as the fourth round, where they lost 2-0 at home to Great Wakering Rovers.

2002/03
Despite only being in the Hampshire League at the time, Winchester City reached the quarter-finals before losing 1-0 at Oadby.

In an earlier round, Winchester – who won their league that season, scoring 181 goals in 38 games, winning 36 of them – had thrashed Wessex club Brockenhurst 7-0.

Two Wessex clubs reached the fourth round, Lymington & New Milton losing 3-2 at home to Mossley and Christchurch going down 3-1 at Devizes.

2003/04
Winchester City became the second Wessex club to lift the Vase when they beat AFC Sudbury 2-0 in the final at Birmingham's St Andrews.

Neil Hards' men won through goals from the mega prolific Andy

THE PINK AND DAILY ECHO: BEST FOR NON-LEAGUE NEWS AND VIEWS

Non-league Football

THE FA VASE...

ECSTACY: AFC Totton celebrate reaching the FA Vase final at Billingham in March 2007.

Forbes – his 76th league and cup strike of the season in his 53rd match – and a second half penalty from Shaun Dyke.

Three Wessex League clubs had reached the quarter-finals.

Winchester demolished Andover 5-1 while Gosport Borough were beaten by a Mike Southgate penalty hat-trick in a 3-0 loss at Bideford.

Winchester were held 3-3 by Bideford in Devon before romping to a 4-0 home win in the second leg.

2004/05

AFC Newbury and Lymington Town both reached the fifth round. Newbury lost 2-1 at Bedlington Terriers while Lymington were beaten 3-2 at Bury Town.

Holders Winchester City had exited at the fourth round stage, losing 2-0 at Bridgwater.

2005/06

Winchester City suffered a shock fifth round exit at home to Newmarket Town.

Steve Tate's favourites lost 4-3 in extra time after battling back from conceding two goals in the first nine minutes.

Wimborne Town also reached the last 16, before losing 2-1 at home to Pickering Town.

2006/07

AFC Totton became the third Wessex League club to reach the FA Vase final.

After beating Billingham Synthonia on penalties in the semi-final, the Stags lost 3-1 to lower tier Truro City in one of the first games ever to be staged at rebuilt Wembley Stadium.

Danny Potter fired Totton ahead in the first half but the Cornishmen hit back through Kevin Willis (2) and Joe Broad in front of a Vase final record crowd of over 35,000.

Stuart Ritchie's Totton had produced a superb recovery in the semi-final after losing the first leg 2-1 at home to Billingham.

Mark Osman equalised an early Billingham goal at Testwood Park before Colin Iley struck the winner with six minutes remaining.

Up against it in the north east a week later, Ritchie had to bring in keeper Joe McCormack as regular number one Ian Brunnschweiler was away in South Africa with Hampshire Cricket.

McCormack was to emerge as one of Totton's heroes.

Osman put the visitors into a half-time lead, and with nine minutes remaining Totton were on their way to Wembley when Lee Stevens made it 2-0.

But the hosts forced extra time in the closing seconds, Wells lobbing over McCormack from close range.

Totton scored all five of their penalties in the resultant shoot-out – Kevin Reacord netting the decisive one – with McCormack making one save.

2007/08

Two Wessex League clubs bowed out at the fourth round stage before losing 4-1. Lymington Town lost at home to Crowborough while Poole Town drew 1-1 at home to Consett before losing in a replay in the north east.

2008/09

Christchurch kept the Wessex League flag flying until the fifth round, when they lost 4-0 at Chalfont St Peter.

2009/10

Poole Town reached the fourth round before losing 3-1 at Whitley Bay, who went on to lift the Vase by thrashing Wroxham 6-1 in the final.

2010/11

Tommy Killick's hopes of a second Vase final were agonisingly dashed at the semi-final stage.

The Poole Town boss, whose goals had helped Wimborne win the competition in 1992, saw his Dolphins beaten 5-2 on aggregate by Whitley Bay.

The holders won 2-1 at Tatnum in the first leg before triumphing 3-1 in the second.

2011/12

Bournemouth Poppies reached the quarter-finals of the Vase, before losing 2-0 at home to West Auckland.

There was a dramatic finish as Fawzi Saadi was sent off prior to the visitors scoring twice.

Saadi was sent off for pushing Town's Steven Brown as he tried to take a quick free-kick in the 82nd minute of the last-eight showdown at Victoria Park.

2012/13

Newport IoW suffered a fifth round exit when they lost 2-1 in a replay at Ascot United.

A brace from Jon Bennett was enough to see the Yellamen through, despite a late Tom McInnes strike for the visitors.

Frustratingly for Newport, they had been forced by the FA to play the replay at Ascot after claiming a 2-2 draw at the Berkshire club in the original tie.

Their home pitch was deemed unplayable.

Non-league News

In reserve for Burridge

COLIN Plumhoff is ready to slot the next piece into his Burridge AFC jig-saw by launching a reserve side for the 2014/15 season.

Plumhoff was appointed manager three weeks before the start of the 2012/13 campaign with Burridge in the Southampton (Saturday) Senior One.

Even with experience in the Wessex and Hampshire leagues behind him, it was to prove a massive test of his managerial ability with no players, no kit, no footballs and no money to start with.

Undeterred, Plumhoff scouted around Southampton and put together a team to kick-start the season and organised training at Thornden School.

His main objective was to avoid relegation and, after a spell of players coming and going, the side started to settle and gained a groundbreaking first win that November – a 5-2 success over Durley reserves.

A few more points followed in the new year and, aided by a couple of teams pulling out of the league, Burridge were able to stave off relegation.

With most of the squad re-signing this season, coupled with a few additions, Burridge are now in a position to challenge for promotion.

New signings such as Craig Dyer, who was at Sholing in pre-season, and Pedro and Andre Gomez, who both had spells with AFC Totton and Eastleigh, have added more firepower and strength to the side.

Central to Burridge's success are last season's joint top scorer Simon Greeves, who has averaged more than a goal a game since joining the ranks, and club captain Aaron Parker, a steadying influence in central midfield.

But it is not just on the pitch where things are improving.

The club have got themselves kitted out with new training balls, bibs, warm-up shirts, jackets and goals.

The pitch has been moved onto better drainage at their Botley Road base and they hope to install dugouts for next term.

"The club in general is looking up and going forward," Plumhoff explained. "With all of this going on, we're now looking to put together a reserve side for 2014/15."

Any player who fancies a new challenge can contact Plumhoff on 07949 066946.

He would also like to hear from anyone keen to be part of Burridge's matchday committee.

Wembley: call it home

GOSPORT Borough have been given the home dressing room and the right to wear their home kit in next month's FA Trophy final at Wembley.

A delegation from the club met FA officials with a toss of the coin deciding that they would get the home dressing room for the big game against Conference Premier high-fliers Cambridge United.

Gosport will wear the yellow-and-blue kit in which they beat Havant & Waterlooville 2-0 to secure a 3-1 aggregate win in last week's Trophy semi-final.

MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS ONLINE: WWW.DAILYECHO.CO.UK

Who are Ya?

CADNAM

Nickname: Magpies
Local pub: Farmhouse
The skipper: Greg Snelgrove
The moaner: Phillip Walsh
Mr Motivator: Dan Gain always gets up for the big games.
Worst haircut: Dan Gain, just awful. Currently has the Fernando Torres but use to have long blonde hair past his shoulders.
Club joker: Sam Payne is forever trying to wind the lads up with pranks or false accusations.
The Professional: Greg Snelgrove. Gets angry if we concede a goal.
Who owns the worst car and what is it? Josh House, Vauxhall Vectra. The lad is 21 but drives around in a car that makes him look 51.

SHOT: Hamble's Craig Sharpen tries an effort at goal. Order: 18029873

Meet the manager

MATT FROUKHIANS

Age: 30
Where are you from: Totton
Occupation: Technical services manager
Who do you support: Arsenal
Favourite player: Dennis Bergkamp
Your best footballing moment: Either Arsenal winning the league at Old Trafford in 02 or White Hart Lane 04.
Best goal you have ever seen: Sam Payne's wonder strike in my Downton days when we played a friendly v Salisbury City, just hope he doesn't read this!
Ambitions for the club: To win the Southampton Premier League and get into the final of the Hampshire Intermediate cup.

PARK SCRATCHINGS ... PARK SCRATCHINGS

CAD PRODUCE A

GET STUCK IN: Cadnam's Matt Froukhians makes a block. Order: 18029877

IT'S the magic of the cup – a lower league side, against all odds, beats one of the stalwarts of a higher division.

In a one-off game anything can happen, it's happened time and time again in cups up and down the football league.

And it reared its head once more as Cadnam beat Hamble Club 3-0 in the Hampshire Intermediate Cup quarter-final.

The plucky Drew Smith side were put under pressure for large spells of the match, but they were able to take an incredible Hampshire League scalp.

Hamble, before this match, were unbeaten all season in every competition.

In Hampshire Division 1 they've dropped points just once this term and have conceded just three goals.

A total of 17 games unbeaten and scoring four or more in 12 of them, meant they were gunning for a big haul of trophies.

But Cadnam ripped their plans to shreds. The thought of Ashley Hewer's hat-trick will forever be etched on the mind of Hamble boss Scott Marchant.

It was the never-say-die attitude and dogged defending from Cadnam that saw off their higher opposition.

The scoreline flattered The Magpies, and manager Matt Froukhians was happy to admit that.

He said: "We were under the cosh most of the game.

"We just managed to catch them on the break, and caught them with some formidable finishing."

That 'formidable finishing' came from Hewer, who took his tally to over ten for the season in this match.

While Hamble boasted incredible form, Cadnam aren't in bad shape themselves, and are well in the mix to join Hamble in the Hampshire League next season. With six games in hand against table toppers Netley

ON THE BALL: Hamble's Ben Keller is tackled by Cadnam's Josh House. Order: 18029837

Order: 18029899

Drew Smith results and scorers in Monday's Echo

PARK SCRATCHINGS ... PARK SCRATCHINGS

BIG CUP UPSET

ON THE BALL: Hamble's Craig Sharpen in the thick of the action.
Order: 18029852 & 18029866

Central Sports, they are just four points behind and now just one game from a cup final.

For the opening 40 minutes neither side got a firm grip on the game. Cadnam were soaking up the pressure, which was beginning to pile on from the Hamble attack, as Hewer and Dan Gain streamed forward on the break.

Right midfielder Gain powered past his marker as he approached the Hamble box. His accurate cross picked out Hewer, who took a touch before powering it into the top-left corner to make it 1-0.

Hamble must have felt frustrated to go down, especially as they had far more possession and the better of the play for much of the half. That pressure continued after the break but once again Froukhian's men were effective on the break.

Fifteen minutes before the end Hewer had his second – a clever through ball from Danny Stickells saw the lightening quick forward burst through into a one-on-one situation and slot home.

The third came ten minutes later as Phil Walsh popped the ball into the penalty area for the marksmen to slam home and complete his hat-trick and set Cadnam up with a semi-final against Horndean Hawks from the Portsmouth Saturday League .

"It was a good game. The man-of-the-match has to go to Ash Hewer, he was unbelievable," said Froukhians.

"It's a real achievement for us. Hamble were unbeaten before this, so I'm incredibly proud.

"If we win the semi-final we'll be doing a big night out!"

SAVE: A Hamble attack is thwarted.
Order: 18029820

CADNAM: Back Row: Josh House, Mark Olsen, Daniel Gain, Sam Payne, Adam Jones. Front row: Ashley Hewer, Daniel Stickells, Mat Froukhians, Tom Glasspool, Phillip Walsh, Matt Storer.
Order: 18029916

Team check

CADNAM

Adam Jones: Skilful attacker with an eye for goal. If he concentrated on football as much as he does on the ladies then he could have made it.

Adam Mallett: Sick note, been injured all season but has a great attitude. Has an important role to play for the rest of the season.

Ash Hewer: Lightening quick striker. Scores goals for fun. He's known as 'bungalow' as there is not much upstairs.

Dan Gain: Proper big game player who delivers when it matters. Disgraceful dress sense though. Has a tendency to fall asleep in nightclubs on Cadnam nights out. Proposed to more women than I can remember.

Danny Stickells: New signing who loves an Alice band, but boy can he play. Has added a new dimension to our game.

Dean Lavelle: Box to box midfielder who never comes out with the lads on squad nights as he's cleaning his boots.

Greg Snelgrove: Best goalkeeper in the league and once saved 3 penalties in a semi-final v Bush Hill. He thinks he's a cast off from Made in Chelsea and tries to live up to the champagne lifestyle on lemonade wages.

Josh House: The youngster of the side. Has made the left wing spot his own but hardly knows what day it is let alone arriving on time, at the correct location.

Lee Walsh: Strong centre half who's great for the banter in the changing rooms. Only downside is he's scared to head the ball!

Liam Hanlon: Known as the Beak because of his hooter. This lad is a striker by trade but played as a make shift right back one game and hasn't moved since.

Mark Olsen: Towering centre half known as the flannel, because of how wet he is.

Matty Storer: Unbelievable defender, who, if he didn't drink every Friday night he could be even quicker.

Nick Davis: Known as Stretch because he has the frame of a corner flag. New addition to the squad in the summer and adds a new dimension to our play.

Phil Walsh: Goal scoring midfielder, apart from the fact he doesn't score goals.

Sam Payne: Cadnam's answer to Ashley Cole at left back, but will argue with anyone about anything.

Scott Donaldson: Unbelievable player and superb finisher. Part time body builder and loves a pose.

Tom Glasspool: Boomerang Glasspool has left Cadnam more times than I can remember to play on the bigger stage. Always ends up crawling back as he doesn't like reserve team football. Biggest show boater in the side and will always pull off a cheeky nutmeg. Technically gifted footballer, but a lazy one!

Want to be featured? Contact Pete Howard on 02380 424513

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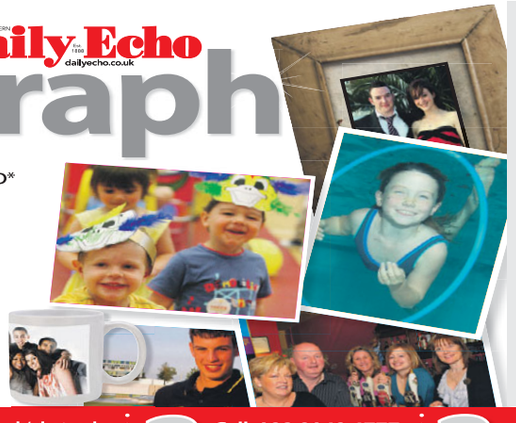

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FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, March 3

SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
League 2: Chesterfield v Portsmouth.
UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL
England U18 v Croatia U18.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Redditch v St Neots.
HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP
Semi-final: Havant & Waterlooville v AFC Portchester.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Division One West: Christchurch v Laverstock & Ford.

Tuesday, March 4

SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
League 1: Colchester v Rotherham, Crawley Town v Stevenage, Sheff Utd v Peterborough.
League 2: Newport County v Fleetwood Town.
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
South: Bath City v Ebbsfleet, Bishops Stortford v Chelmsford, Bromley v Sutton, Eastbourne Borough v Eastleigh, Tonbridge Angels v Maidenhead.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Arlesey v Chippenham, Bashley v AFC Totton, Hungerford v Cambridge City, Poole Town v Hemel Hempstead, Weymouth v Chesham.
Division One South & West: Bridgwater v Godalming, Cirencester v Clevedon, Evesham v Merthyr Town, Fleet Town v Cinderford, Paulton v Yate, Stratford v Mangotsfield, Tiverton v Wimborne).
HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP
Semi-final: Gosport Borough v Basingstoke Town.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Downton v Moneyfields, Fareham v Verwood, Folland Sports v Whitchurch, Hamworthy Utd v Christchurch, Newport IoW v Lymington Town, Sholing v Horndean, Totton & Eling v Alresford Town, Winchester City v Bemerton HH.
Division One: Andover NS v Tadley Calleva, Cowes Sports v Ringwood, Hythe & Dibden v Team Solent, Laverstock & Ford v Pewsey Vale, US Portsmouth v Petersfield Town.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Dorchester Town v AFC Portchester, New Milton v Sholing.

Wednesday, March 5

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES
Cyprus v Northern Ireland, England v Denmark (8pm), Poland v Scotland, Rep of Ireland v Serbia, Wales v Iceland.
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP
Qualifying Group One: England U21 v Wales U21 (6pm).
Qualifying Group Six: Rep of Ireland U21 v Montenegro
Qualifying Group Nine: N Ireland U21 v Italy U21.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
League 1: Coventry v Walsall.
UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL
England U19 v Turkey U19.
UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL
England U18 v Croatia U18.
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
South: Boreham Wood v Havant & Waterlooville.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Corby v St Albans.
Division One South & West: Swindon Supermarine v Taunton.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Blackfield & Langley, Fawley AFC v Bournemouth Poppies.
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP
Semi-final: Locks Heath v Hedge End Rangers.
PUMA ENGINEERING HPL
Premier Division: AFC Aldermaston v Colden Common.
PEHPL Combination Cup, semi-final: Paulsgrove v Hamble Club Res.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Wyvern Challenge Cup, second round: Wimborne Town v AFC Totton.
Division One East: Horndean v Newport IoW.
Division One West: Lymington Town v Hythe & Dibden.
Wyvern Shield, league phase: D. Petersfield v East Cowes Vics, B. Verwood Town v US Portsmouth.

Thursday, March 6

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Fareham Town v AFC Portchester.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Wyvern Challenge Cup, second round: Folland Sports v Alresford.
Premier Division: Moneyfields v Winchester City.

Saturday, March 8
(FL games 3pm ko unless stated)

FA CUP
Sixth round: Arsenal v Everton (12.45pm).
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Cardiff v Fulham, Chelsea v Spurs (5.30pm), Crystal Palace v SAINTS, Norwich v Stoke, West Brom v Man Utd (12.45pm).
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Barnsley v Nottm Forest, Birmingham v QPR, Blackpool v Bournemouth, Brighton v Reading, Derby v Millwall, Doncaster v Huddersfield, Leeds v Bolton, Middlesbrough v Ipswich, Yeovil v Sheff Wed.
League 1: Brentford v Bradford, Colchester v Coventry, Gillingham v Crawley Town, Notts County v Leyton Orient, Oldham v Preston, Peterborough v Crewe, Port Vale v Carlisle, Shrewsbury v Bristol City, Stevenage v Tranmere, Swindon v Milton Keynes Dons, Walsall v Wolverhampton.
League 2: AFC Wimbledon v York, Accrington Stanley v Chesterfield, Bristol Rovers v Plymouth, Exeter v Dag & Red, Mansfield v Newport County, Morecambe v Southend, Oxford Utd v Burton Albion, Portsmouth v Cheltenham, Scunthorpe v Northampton, Torquay v Fleetwood Town, Wycombe v Hartlepool.
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Premier: Alfreton Town v Lincoln City, Barnet v Gateshead, Braintree Town v Hereford, Forest Green v Cambridge Utd, Hyde v FC Halifax, Macclesfield v Grimsby, Nuneaton v Welling, Salisbury v Luton, Tamworth v Aldershot, Woking v Southport, Wrexham v Kidderminster.
South: Chelmsford v Bromley, Concord v Eastleigh, Dorchester v Boreham Wood, Dover v Basingstoke, Eastbourne Borough v Havant & Waterlooville, Ebbsfleet v Havant & Waterlooville, Ebbsfleet v Hayes & Yeading, Farnborough v Sutton, Maidenhead v Bath City, Staines v Gosport Borough, Tonbridge Angels v Bishops Stortford, Weston-super-Mare v Whitehawk.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Totton v Cambridge City, Bedford v Chippenham, Bideford v Arlesey, Biggleswade v Redditch, Burnham v Poole Town, Chesham v Corby, Hemel Hempstead v Weymouth, Hitchin v Banbury, Hungerford v Frome, Stourbridge v St Albans, Truro v St Neots.
Division One South & West: Bishops Cleeve v Mangotsfield, Bridgwater v Merthyr Town, Cinderford v Swindon Supermarine, Cirencester v Stratford, Didcot v Tiverton, Fleet Town v Taunton, Godalming v Clevedon, Paulton Rovers v Guildford City, Shortwood v Thatcham, Wimborne v North Leigh, Yate v Evesham.
FA VASE
Quarter-finals: Sholing v Wisbech Town, St Andrews v Newcastle BPP, Eastbourne Utd v Ampthill Town, Dunston UTS v West Auckland.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Alresford v Romsey, Blackfield & Langley v Fawley AFC, Bournemouth Poppies v Brockenhurst, Downton v AFC Portchester, Fareham v Sholing, Folland Sports v Christchurch, Horndean v Lymington Town, Newport IoW v Whitchurch, Totton & Eling v Bemerton HH, Winchester City v Verwood.
Division One: East Cowes Vics v Hythe & Dibden, Fleet Spurs v Cowes Sports, Laverstock & Ford v Amesbury, New Milton v Hayling Utd, Petersfield v Tadley Calleva, Pewsey Vale v Team Solent, US Portmsouth v Andover Town.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
PEHPL Cup, quarter-final: Baffins Milton Rovers v AFC Aldermaston.
Premier Division: Bournemouth Sports v Clanfield, Colden Common v Headley Utd, Fleetlands v QK Southampton, Hedge End Rangers v Liphook, Liss Athletic v Otterbourne, Locks Heath v Winchester Castle, Overton v Paulsgrove.
Division One: Andover Lions v Four Marks, Durley v Lyndhurst, Hamble Club v Upham, Infinity v Broughton, Michelmersh & Timsbury v Bush Hill.
Combination: AFC Stoneham v Hamble Coub, Clanfield v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Liphook Utd v Overton, Otterbourne v Fleetlands, Paulsgrove v Liss Athletic, Winchester Castle v Hedge End Rangers.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Wyvern Challenge Cup, quarter-final: Team Solent v Romsey Town.
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Bemerton HH, Sholing v AFC Totton.
Division One East: Alton v Alresford, Locks Heath v Colden Common, Tadley Calleva v Folland Sports.
Division One West: Christchurch v Lymington Town, Hythe & Dibden v Fawley AFC, Ringwood v Laverstock & Ford, Verwood v East Cowes Vics.

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SIX SHOOTERS

Solent University women chasing title double and cup quadruple

SHOOTING STAR: Southampton Solent University's Chelsea Law scores with a stunning long-range shot against Winchester City Women.

Pictures courtesy of Paul Watts/PBWPIX

SOUTHAMPTON Solent University's Women's football team are in the form of their lives, scoring 78 goals and conceding just six in their last seven games.

Their most recent demolition job, a 20-0 victory over Winchester University in the British Universities & College Sports (BUCS) Western 2A Division, capped their unbelievable run which has them in the running for six pieces of silverware, ***writes PETER HOWARD***.

Winchester City Women (10-1), Mudeford Pheonix (13-1), Aldershot Town (7-1), and Sholing Ladies (7-0) have also felt the full force of Solent's attacking power in Hampshire County Women's Football League and cup action.

Added to this have been victories over Southampton University (10-3) and University of Exeter (11-0) in the BUCS league and cup.

While Solent are looking good for the BUCS Western 2A and Hampshire County League Division Two titles, they are also fighting for silverware in FOUR cups.

They have reached the Hampshire Intermediate Cup final, the semi-final of Southampton Challenge Cup and the quarter final of Hampshire Invitational Cup along with the semi-final of the BUCS Western Conference Cup.

Manager Chris Wheeler is delighted with his team. He said: "It is fantastic but I knew this kind of form would come.

"I've been working for around a decade at the club, developing the team into a really competitive force; it is brilliant to finally see it come to fruition.

"We've always been the bridesmaid but I think this season is our time to be the bride, we're in vicious form."

NET GAIN: Southampton Solent University's Leah Bimson (red) makes sure Emma Hopkins's (not pictured) shot crosses the line for a goal against Winchester City Women.

LEFT: Southampton Solent University's Emma Pinner celebrates with teammate Chelsea Law (number four) after in the 10-1 demolition of Winchester City Women.

RIGHT: Southampton Solent University's Susie Wemer goes for goal against Winchester City Women.

Youth Football

Itchen run riot to reach national semis

ITCHEN College's ladies football team are through to their second national cup semi-final, booking their place in emphatic style, by walloping Brockenhurst College 18-0 at Test Park.

Remarkably, 17 of those goals came from just three players – strikers Meg Fox and Millie Farrow each scored six goals and Atlanta Primus chipped in with five.

Amber Siley completed the scoring for an Itchen team that were really clinical in front of goal and played some delightful football, particularly in the second half.

"We played as well as we've played all season" commented coach Steve Perkins. "Credit to Brockenhurst; they kept going well and played some good stuff themselves, but it was a day when everything clicked into place for us, particularly in front of goal.

"We've always had good individuals but we're now playing really well as a team.

"We're playing with more care, and therefore we're able to keep the ball much better."

The Itchen team is now just one more game away from a return visit to St George's Park, the England training base in Burton on Trent.

ITCHEN COLLEGE'S LADIES: Back row (from left): Atlanta Primus, Ellie Harriington, Meg Fox, Nikki Keen, Zoe Saunders, Amber Siley, Georgina Axton. Front: Robyn McGregor-Ritchie, Millie Farrow, Dee Allollolo, Beckah Tonks, EJ May.

Last year's team suffered the heartache of losing 4-3 after extra time in the final, to Accrington and Rossendale College from Lancashire.

This year's team aim to go one stage further, but in order to do so they must overcome either Exeter College or Birmingham-based Blue Coat school in the semi-final, which is scheduled to be played after Easter.

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DRODGE INJURY SPURS BROCK TO WIN

BROCKENHURST will lock horns with Sparsholt in this month's Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges Cup final.

But their place in the Peter Munro Cup showpiece at Southampton Solent University's Test Park Stadium on Wednesday, March 19 has come at a cost, ***writes MIKE VIMPANY***.

The influential Adam Drodge, a key member of the Brockenhurst team which lifted the British Colleges crown last term, suffered a suspected broken leg in the 6-1 semi-final win over Portsmouth.

Drodge will now have to be content with an uncomfortable touchline spectating role in 18 days time.

The semi-final was held up for some 40 minutes at Portsmouth's Sailing Centre as paramedics attended to Drodge, who was injured after the Portsmouth goalkeeper appeared to bring him down midway through the first half.

Brock, 1-0 down at the time, were furious they didn't get a penalty in the incident that led to Drodge breaking his leg.

Coach Carl Robson explained: "On 20 minutes Adam (Drodge) was slipped in one-on-one versus the Portsmouth goalkeeper after some fantastic build-up play involving Harry Morgan and Matt Gane.

ON TARGET: Jesse Gould, left.

"Adam got to the ball before the goalkeeper and touched it round him – only for the Portsmouth goalkeeper to bring him down inside the box.

"To my amazement the referee gave a free kick the other way when in reality it should of been a penalty and a red card for the goalkeeper."

Robson believes the injury to Drodge fired Brockenhurst towards their eventual victory.

"The sense of injustice the team felt seemed to be just the catalyst to ignite a comeback," Robson added.

"We came out with renewed energy and determination and went on to perform at a tempo Portsmouth found difficult to cope with."

Bryce Banfield, Drodge's replacement, found acres of space behind surprisingly high Portsmouth back four to start the comeback, coolly rounding the goalkeeper to equalise. Brockenhurst came in at half-time 2-1 up with Connor Doe getting on the scoresheet also from a set piece.

The second half saw Brockenhurst dominate possession and go on to score four more, with Portsmouth looking unlikely to add to their earlier score.

Jack Hoey's introduction finished Portsmouth – the substitute coming off the bench to score and create two other goals and complete a great cameo appearance.

Other scorers in the second half were Bryce Banfield, Harry Morgan and Jesse Gould.

Sparsholt, who beat Itchen 3-2 in the other semi-final at Andover's Portway Stadium, aim for a second cup final appearance when they host Stanmore College, from Middlesex, in the English Schools FA Under-18 College Trophy on Monday, noon.

If Sparsholt beat Stanmore – who won the trophy last year – they will play St John's Rigby, from Wigan, in the final.

Garraway on treble trail

Kurtis Garraway notched a second half hat-trick as Itchen took another positive step towards retaining the Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges title for a sixth successive season.

They beat Barton Peveril 5-1, having fallen behind to a Ben Gurman strike which climaxed an encouraging first-half performance.

But two Itchen goals in five late first-half minutes turned the game on its head.

Matt Gray equalised after Wes Regular had hit the post and then Matt Hubbard caught out the BP goalkeeper with a cross-shot which gave Itchen a 2-1 interval lead.

Itchen bossed it from there, with Garraway's treble stretching the lead.

The 25-yard volley Bouwe Bosma scored in the 5-0 win over St Vincent almost had Peter Symonds' coach Rob Kitley doing summersaults on the touchline.

"Probably the best goal I've ever seen," enthused Kitley, who saw an Elliott Newman brace and single strikes from Sam Adams and Brady Hampton sink the Gosport opposition.

PSC completed a clean sweep, with their Second XI leaders winning 4-2 – Ollie Lerway notched a hat-trick alongside a single strike by James Hartman – while the 3rd XI won 1-0 courtesy of Max Edwardes.

The Poole Grammar-Bournemouth & Poole Dorset derby at Gravel Hill ended all square.

B & P opened the scoring through Joe Kimber, but the lead should have been doubled when Matt Morris was brought down inside the PG box.

Tyler Rutten stepped up but dragged the ball horrendously wide of the goal.

Grammar started to dominate and with two smart finishes by Chris Wilcox and Morgan Turner took a 2-1 lead into half time.

The second half was a well contested affair but Grammar showed more quality creating the better of the chances.

However, Tyler Rutten made amends for his penalty miss, reacting sharply when the Grammar keeper spilled a tame shot to bring the scores level.

Neighbours Bournemouth School went down 3-2 at Alton, whose scorers were Marcus Browne, Sam Jefferies and Richard Dane.

Queen Mary's won 3-2 at Havant, with Portsmouth clouting Richard Taunton College 4-0.

Wednesday's fixtures: Sparsholt v Barton Peveril, Poole Grammar v Bournemouth, Portsmouth v Alton, Farnborough v Richard Tauntons, Queen Mary's v Basingstoke, South Downs v Bournemouth & Poole, Itchen v St Vincent, Brockenhurst v Havant.

SEND TEAM PICTURES TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

Mitchell aims to lead Dolphins back home

EDDIE Mitchell is leading the quest to return Poole Town to their spiritual home.

The former AFC Bournemouth chairman, right, has held talks with Stadia UK over the Dolphins returning to a new multi-purpose arena at their old Poole Stadium base.

The club were kicked out of the stadium – their home for 61 years – back in 1994 and led a nomadic existence before pitching up at Tatnam Farm, in the grounds of Oakdale Junior School, in October 2000 and have been there ever since.

Mitchell was tasked with finding a permanent new home for the club after he acquired a two-year majority share option in December last year.

A statement from Stadia UK, Poole Stadium's operators, said it was investigating the "feasibility of incorporating our three sports (soccer, speedway and greyhound racing) and that it expected to reach a "principle conclusion" over the next two months.

Mitchell has stressed that the plans are in their infancy, but the Sandbanks-based property developer said: "I usually get things done, so I don't see why this would be any different. I have put in my expertise to make it happen and I think we will make progress.

"I would not have invested so much time if I didn't believe in it or feel sure it would go ahead.

"Poole Stadium and Poole Town FC go hand in hand and we are totally looking towards this with the stadium leaseholders. There would be no better place."

On the prospect of being directly involved with renovating the site, Mitchell added: "I would like to think I would be, it's what I do.

"It (the stadium) needs a brush-up and I just want it work for the football club, the town itself and whoever else is involved with the speedway and the dogs."

Hailing Mitchell's influence, Chris Reeves, vice-chairman of the ambitious Calor Southern Premier Division club, said: "We have had a very good relationship with Stadia UK and held two or three meetings since leaving Poole Stadium to explore the possibility of going back.

"We didn't have much to offer the stadium but, with Eddie going in with his greater plans, we are now in a position to start talking about what we can offer in return.

"Eddie is the new factor which causes me to be optimistic that, this time, the discussions with Stadia UK will bear fruit."

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LUKE-ING GOOD FOR CARNIVAL

AFTER a weather enforced break of more than two months, City of Southampton Sunday League footballers returned to league and cup action last weekend.

There was a festival for Carnival UK as Luke Bowers scored with the last kick of the match to defeat Durley 1-0 in the Southampton Divisional FA Junior B Cup semi-final..

They will be met in the final by Junior 7 high-fliers Bitterne Ducks, who beat Curbridge 3-1. Alex Sing-Kang, Michael Thomas and James West scored. Glenn Littleboy was on target in reply.

Bridge AFC lost 2-0 to Chamberlayne Athletic in the AJ Miller Trophy quarter-final. Craig Dowling and Nick Simpkins were on target.

In the DR Ryder Trophy quarter-finals, AFC Bursledon romped to a 4-2 victory over Chartwell Green, Lewis Crook netting all four goals. Gary Kleep replied.

FC Railway fell off their tracks after letting a 3-2 lead slip, losing 5-4 on penalties to AFC Portswood after finishing 4-4 after 90 minutes. Andrew White, Dan Robertson and Mark Bond (2) netted for Railway, with Eric Makate (2), Nick Green and Rob North on target for AFC Portswood.

Green, Makate, Vinay Kumbar, Andy Debnam and Tom Godson dispatched their spot-kicks as Matt Taylor missed the crucial penalty to send Portswood through.

Glen clinched a straightforward 2-0 win over AFC Riverside through Jake Voller and Dan Sultana.

Obelisk clashed with the Titans in the other tie; the former came out 2-1 winners through Matthew McKenzie and Mitch Turley. Jamie Keyte replied.

In Junior 2, RS Ocean Village hit choppy seas against Athletico Tin Hut, but still managed a 3-2 win to leapfrog their opponents into third. Elliot Weaver and Tommy Brown jabbed one home each for Hut but that was cancelled out by Rob Longman and Brett Hall before Dan Sanders scored the winner.

In Junior 3, King George sat high and mighty on the throne after beating fellow strugglers Royal Marine 5-1, who they pushed to the foot of the division. Aaron Dack, Paul Abrahams, David North, Mark Phillips and Dean Spray scored for the winners. Gift Ngubane's penalty replied.

DOUBLE: AFC Portswood's Eric Makate, left.

Itchen Saints lead Junior 4 after knocking Roll Call off the top in a 2-0 win. Jamie Wilson and Danny Phillips were on target.

Sherfield English Reserves made a thrilling comeback from 2-1 down to win 4-3 against Shelfside. Nyall O'Connor and Nathan Gray gave Shelf the lead before braces from Adam Coding and Matt Thick won the match. The result hauled Sherfield off the bottom and consigned Shelf to the foot of the table.

AFC Marchwood kept their Junior 5 title charge on track after beating Bannister Park 1-0. Mitch Young was on target for the table toppers.

Burridge AFC romped to an emphatic victory 5-0 against Itchen Albion. Lewis Wise, Dave Middleton, Karl Atkin, Dan Smith and Carlos Dorado were on target.

Sporting Compass are heading in the right direction after thrashing AFC Phoenix 7-0 in Junior 6. The one-time strugglers are now up to third after Martin Rogers fired in a hat-trick; Melvin Rogers (2), Nick Pompa and Stuart Griffin scored the others.

League leaders AFC Southbrook smashed rock-bottom Athletico Totton 9-1.

Mid-table sides Unity and AFC Bishopstoke shared the spoils in a 2-2 draw. Nathan Alexander had put 'Stoke 1-0 up, but Sohel Begh and Sam Beaton pulled the match back. Alexander then scored the equaliser.

Mottisfont smashed Junior 7 strugglers Netley RBL 5-2. It was 5-1 at half-time after Matt Bosanquet (4) and Dan Scott had found the target. Adam Sea and Dan Dixon replied.

Fawley RBL compounded bottom side Testwood Tornadoes' misery in a 7-1 win. Goals from Brendon Wright (2), Philip Bryan (2), Dan Powell and two own goals clinched victory. Luke Smith replied.

City of Southampton Sunday League standings (do not include this weekend's games)

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
City Central	3	2	1	0	13	3	7
Linden Tree	4	2	0	2	18	11	6
K.R.L.	3	2	0	1	9	11	6
Totton Town	4	2	0	2	13	16	6
Chamberlayne Athletic	4	1	1	2	4	14	4
Bridge A.F.C.	4	0	2	2	6	8	2

Senior Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yacht Tavern	4	4	0	0	19	5	12
Bush Hill & N Heath	7	3	0	4	19	31	9
Cricketers Arms	6	2	1	3	21	16	7
Sherfield English	4	1	2	1	19	15	5
Eastbrook Harriers	5	1	1	3	14	25	4

Junior Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glen	7	4	1	2	17	11	13
A.F.C. Bursledon	4	4	0	0	17	6	12
Obelisk	5	3	0	2	19	12	9
Chartwell Green	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
Sky Blues	4	1	1	2	8	13	4
A.F.C. Riverside	4	0	2	2	3	13	2
F.C. Railway	5	0	1	4	6	17	1

Junior Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A.F.C. Portswood	8	7	1	0	32	11	22
Lokomotive Eastleigh	7	3	1	3	24	12	10
R.S. Ocean Village	6	3	0	3	18	13	9
Athletico Tin Hut	6	3	0	3	18	18	9
L.H. Galaxy	7	3	0	4	8	9	9
Riverside Athletic	4	2	0	2	7	14	6
Fleming Sports	6	0	0	6	3	33	0

Junior Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Landguard Rovers	8	6	2	0	24	11	20
Bridge A.F.C. Res	8	3	4	1	16	11	13
A.F.C. Velmore	9	4	1	4	27	25	13
Chartwell Green Res	8	4	1	3	16	15	13
A.F.C. Bishopstoke	10	3	3	4	14	18	12
Titans	7	3	1	3	11	8	10
Boyatt Wood Wanderers	8	3	1	4	11	14	10
King George	6	2	1	3	11	14	7
Royale Marine	10	0	4	6	11	25	4

Junior Division Four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Itchen Saints	9	8	0	1	45	15	24
Roll Call	10	8	0	2	38	13	24
A.F.C. Gulf Western	9	6	0	3	28	23	18
Hedge End Rangers	7	4	1	2	18	13	13
Carnival U.K.	9	4	0	5	28	26	12
Durley	8	2	1	5	18	25	7
Sherfield English Res	11	2	1	8	20	45	7
Eastpoint	9	1	3	5	15	31	6
Shelfside	8	1	2	5	23	42	5

Junior Division Five

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A.F.C. Marchwood	9	6	1	2	24	14	19
Cherbourg	11	5	2	4	32	30	17
Test Valley Spartans	9	4	2	3	24	20	14
Burridge A.F.C.	9	3	4	2	30	19	13
Itchen Albion	9	3	2	4	18	25	11
Bannister Park	10	3	1	6	17	29	10
Portside	9	2	2	5	19	27	8

Junior Division Six

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A.F.C. Southbrook	10	9	1	0	48	13	28
Curbridge	9	6	2	1	39	18	20
Sporting Compass	10	4	3	3	33	23	15
J.S.C.	12	4	1	7	29	38	13
A.F.C. Phoenix	12	4	1	7	26	40	13
A.F.C. Bishopstoke Res	10	3	3	4	24	35	12
Unity	10	3	2	5	33	30	11
Athletico Totton	11	2	1	8	22	57	7

Junior Division Seven

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bitterne Ducks	10	8	1	1	43	15	25
Riverside Park Rangers	9	7	1	1	38	8	22
Fawley R.B.L.	12	6	2	4	40	28	20
Mottisfont	10	5	1	4	40	29	16
New Bridge	10	3	1	6	23	28	10
Netley R.B.L.	9	2	0	7	17	34	6
Testwood Tornadoes	8	0	0	8	5	64	0

Non-league Football

Unhappy travels for Gullivers ...

ROLL Call thrashed Gullivers Tavern 9-1 in the quarter-finals of the Hants Junior A Cup.

Ricky Bull smashed in four for the hosts; Alan Hitchcock, Bobby Lamb, Dean Little, Simon Quirke and Ben Smith were also among the goals.

AFC West End defeated Holbury United 4-2 in the quarter-finals of the Trophyman Challenge Cup. Gareth Snelling's hat-trick and Connor Doswell single sealed victory. Ben Graff and Scott Mansfield responded.

Trants thumped Chamberlayne 11-1. A hat-trick apiece from Dan Petley and Matt Petley and goals from Rikki Richardson (2), Tony Brown, Scott Felbrich and Nelson Lewis capped off a scintillating performance and sent them in high-spirits to the semi-final.

In Division One of the Southampton & District Sunday League, Richard Luffman bagged a hat-trick as AFC Allbrook won 4-1 against Sholing United. Lewis Morse was also on target.

KEEPING SPITFIRES FLYING

From page 29

Waldon passed on some of his wisdom and, after moving to Millwall, Cook took the first steps on the road to his new life.

"I started going to night school in Orpington on a Monday and Thursday after training – or after rehab probably! I spent most of my time at Millwall in the treatment room.

"I started off doing an A Level in Human Biology, then a Diploma in Sports Therapy and finally did my degree in Applied Sports Therapy at Teesside University."

There aren't many people better placed than the man tasked with returning Eastleigh's stricken footballers back to health – a job that could keep him extremely busy across two hectic forthcoming months, as the Spitfires chase the Conference South title – to contrast the care received by today's players, and that which was provided in less enlightened times.

"It's been a massive jump from the protocol for injured players going back 30-odd years to now," Cook explained.

"There's so much more knowledge and understanding of what the body is going through as a professional athlete, especially the mechanics of what's occurring.

"There's more research being done all the time and sports science has come on leaps and bounds in the modern game.

"It's probably a multi-faceted approach now to fitness and rehab, rather than being so straightforward.

"The facilities, certainly at Premier League and Championship clubs, are such that there's a whole medical team.

"Players are treated as individuals. Their needs are catered for far, far better than was previously the case."

Another advantage for the modern player, says Cook, is the more refined approach taken to instil the fitness that will carry them through a long, arduous season.

"Back in my day, most managers would just run you ragged. Certainly at Southampton pre-seasons were very difficult, and at Swansea City as well.

"But that was just part and parcel of what we did.

"Today it's a little bit more scientific.

"The importance of recovery days and recovery strategies for players is acknowledged and understood now.

"Players aren't worked to the point of breaking.

"It's more a case of improving their stamina and strength in a progressive manner, rather than 'beasting' them."

Cook is passionate and enthusiastic on his specialist subject.

His tone only drops briefly when discussing the alternative post-playing option of management – something he has brief experience of with Salisbury City, as well as on a temporary basis at Woking.

FITNESS FIRST: Andy Cook, right, with some of the Eastleigh squad.

"I was offered the Salisbury job way back when I'd been there a couple of years as a player and Geoff Butler had departed.

"I took over for a very brief period, during which time I was still studying, so it's nothing I ever really seriously considered pursuing.

"I was always going to go in the direction I have.

"With Woking, a friend of mine, Kim Grant, was sacked very early on into the season (2008/2009).

"Phil Gilchrist took over and I gave him a hand as an assistant.

"That was extremely difficult to be honest, trying to juggle looking after the players as well as helping Phil.

"I did what I could but it was never something I was going to pursue.

"Looking after the players is something that extends to more than restoring their optimum physical condition.

"There is also the mental welfare of, typically, the most downbeat group in any squad – those who can't play – to consider.

"I spent enough time in the treatment room myself to realise that, when you come in here, you've got to put a smile on their face.

"If you don't then you're not going to get the best out of them in terms of commitment or effort into what you want them to do.

"They've got to enjoy what they're doing to a certain extent, as well as understanding why it's important for them to do these things.

"I do have a laugh and a joke and bit of banter with them as well as working on the serious side of things."

In fine physical nick, and with his touch not having deserted him one iota, Cook can still be seen taking part in practice games with a group of footballers he holds in high regard – although any pining for his own playing days comes with a caveat attached.

"They're a good bunch of lads. A lot of them have come from professional backgrounds so they've been brought up to appreciate the correct protocol.

"Obviously, you get the odd moan when you ask them to do something that they think is a bit too hard, but you probably wouldn't be doing your job properly if they were completely comfortable with what you're asking them to do.

"Certainly my joints don't (wish he was still playing), but, yeah, I suppose you always miss that feeling of running out and playing, then coming back in after a great result.

"But I don't have too many regrets from my playing days. Obviously, I would have liked to have played more professional games, but injury dictated that wouldn't be the case.

"Overall, though, I'm fairly comfortable and happy still being involved in the game and on this side of things."

With his own thriving sports therapy clinic in Romsey, and a long standing set-up with New Street Chiropractic Clinic in Salisbury, both fitting in perfectly around his involvement with Eastleigh, Cook had found the "ideal" way to marry his two areas of professional expertise.

Today, 26 and a half years on from their draw at The Dell, Manchester United are trying to rediscover their mojo under a new Scottish manager, Liverpool are mounting a charge at the top flight summit, Saints have an 18 year-old left-back, and Andy Cook is very much part of the Hampshire football scene.

Maybe the landscape isn't quite so different after all ...

Testway Youth League standings (do not include this weekend's games)

U12 Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitchurch United	14	11	2	1	64	24	35
Braishfield Bees	11	9	0	2	60	12	27
Bishop Waltham	9	7	1	1	43	24	22
West Harnham	10	5	2	3	33	22	17
Barton Stacey	11	4	1	6	28	33	13
Clarendon Juniors	12	3	1	8	20	29	10
CK Andover U12	10	3	0	7	32	45	9
Waltham Wolves	8	2	2	4	11	19	8
Fordingbridge Town	8	2	1	5	15	25	7
Tidworth Tigers	11	0	2	9	9	82	2
Division 2							
Lyndhurst	9	7	1	1	62	8	22
Worthys	9	5	2	2	40	15	17
Shipton Bellinger Rams	8	5	0	3	26	18	15
South Wonston	8	4	1	3	57	29	13
Upper Clatford	8	3	2	3	37	23	11
Braishfield Hornets	6	1	0	5	8	25	3
Andover New Street	8	0	0	8	2	114	0
U13 Division 1							
Shooters	8	8	0	0	66	7	24
Lyndhurst	8	7	1	0	45	12	22
Clarendon Juniors	12	6	1	5	40	32	19
Littleton Leopards	8	3	0	5	33	32	9
CK Andover U13	6	3	0	3	10	17	9
Shipton Bellinger Rams	8	2	0	6	13	44	6
Alderbury	10	0	0	10	9	72	0
Division 2							
Worthys 13	12	10	1	1	41	20	31
Hatch Warren	12	7	1	4	56	27	22
Whitchurch	13	6	3	4	60	29	21
Upper Clatford	10	6	3	1	34	25	21
Littleton Lions	12	6	2	4	49	31	20
Porton	11	6	0	5	38	26	18
Tidworth Hurricannes	12	1	0	11	20	60	3
South Wonston Swifts	12	0	0	12	3	83	0
U14 Division 1							
Ludgershall Sports	11	9	1	1	42	10	28
Porton	10	6	1	3	36	20	19
Hatch Warren Phoenix	8	5	3	0	35	7	18
Upper Clatford	7	5	0	2	25	11	15
Broughton	11	4	0	7	26	47	12
Worthys	10	1	0	9	12	52	3
Fordingbridge Rangers	9	0	1	8	12	41	1
Division 2							
Amesbury Tigers	11	8	2	1	49	15	26
South Wonston	14	7	3	4	62	36	24
Littleton Leopards	11	6	4	1	34	17	22
Michelmersh & Tims	11	6	3	2	45	29	21
Lyndhurst	9	5	3	1	21	10	18
Clarendon Juniors	10	4	1	5	29	35	13
Sarum Youth	8	3	1	4	23	26	10
Tidworth Hotshots	12	2	4	6	21	34	10
Vernham Dean	11	1	1	9	27	70	4
Fordingbridge Rovers	11	1	0	10	24	63	3
U15 Division 1							
Fordingbridge Town	8	8	0	0	33	8	24
Stockbridge	6	6	0	0	39	8	18
Hatch Warren	4	3	0	1	17	9	9
Winchester Youth	8	3	0	5	25	20	9
Littleton Leopards	7	1	2	4	22	34	5
Sarum Youth	6	1	1	4	9	22	4
Lyndhurst	9	0	1	8	19	63	1
Division 2							
Upper Clatford	12	9	2	1	67	20	29
Worthys 15	11	6	2	3	45	30	20
Overton	10	6	0	4	31	23	18
Clarendon Juniors	10	4	2	4	26	29	14
South Newton & Wford	10	4	1	5	22	26	13
Sh Bellinger Rams	10	3	1	6	27	51	10
Littleton Swifts	11	3	0	8	21	45	9
CK Andover U15	10	2	2	6	21	36	8
U16 Division 1							
Amesbury Youth	9	6	2	1	39	17	20
Sarum Youth	9	5	3	1	42	25	18
Ludgershall Sports	9	4	3	2	23	23	15
Stockbridge	6	4	1	1	16	11	13
Littleton Leopards	10	2	2	6	16	28	8
Whitchurch	8	2	1	5	19	36	7
South Newton & Wford	11	1	2	8	16	31	5
Division 2							
Fordingbridge	8	7	1	0	36	11	22
Clarendon Juniors	8	7	0	1	33	9	21
CK Andover U16	8	4	1	3	25	15	13
Worthys Red	7	3	0	4	13	30	9
Alderbury	9	2	1	6	15	30	7
Andover New Street	8	2	0	6	14	24	6
Worthys Blue	8	1	1	6	11	28	4

Eastleigh Mini League standings (do not include this weekend's games)

U10 Green

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Wellow Wolves	22	14	7	1	49
Ice Sports	20	15	2	3	47
Littleton Lions	22	13	4	5	43
Bitterne Terriers Red	20	9	7	4	34
Winsor Sports Red	20	9	4	7	31
AFC Stoneham	20	9	4	7	31
Botley Village Tigers	20	9	3	8	30
Wyvern Dragons	20	8	5	7	29
Chamberlayne Athletic Red	20	9	2	9	29
Hedge End Scorpions	20	8	5	7	29
Compton Youth	20	7	2	11	23
Wellow Wasps	22	6	3	13	21
Winsor Sports Green	22	2	4	16	10
Lakewood Leopards	20	0	0	20	0
U10 Yellow					
Testwood United	22	16	5	1	53
Warsash Wasps Black	22	16	2	4	50
Sarisbury Sparks	20	14	3	3	45
Hedge End Falcons	20	10	6	4	36
Romsey Town Panthers	20	11	3	6	36
Baddesley Park Crusaders	19	9	5	5	32
Pace Panthers	20	8	6	6	30
Southbrook Athletic	22	6	4	12	22
Oakwood Rangers	20	6	3	11	21
Warsash Wasps White	20	6	3	11	21
HEY Planets	20	4	7	9	19
Stoke Park Rangers	22	4	4	14	16
Wyvern Sharks	19	3	2	14	11
Hythe & Dibden Lions	20	3	1	16	10
U10 Blue					
Hedge End Lions	20	19	0	1	57
Southbrook Rangers	20	18	1	1	55
Hythe & Dibden Tigers	20	17	0	3	51
Oakwood Dynamos	22	13	3	6	42
Marchwood Rangers	20	13	0	7	39
Warsash Wasps Yellow	20	12	3	5	39
Soccer4all Tigers	22	11	3	8	36
S & D	22	10	1	11	31
AFC Hiltingbury Hawks	20	7	1	12	22
QK Southampton	22	5	2	15	17
Baddesley Park Templars	20	4	1	15	13
Bishops Waltham Dynamos	20	3	1	16	10
Colden Common Rangers	20	1	2	17	5
Highfield Sharks	20	1	2	17	5
U10 White					
Sholing Youth White	22	19	2	1	59
Pace Cougars	22	17	4	1	55
Oakwood Ravens	22	16	2	4	50
AFC Hiltingbury Hurricanes	20	12	2	6	38
Colden Common Rovers	20	10	3	7	33
Bitterne Terriers Black	19	10	2	7	32
Botley Village Lions	19	9	4	6	31
Eastleigh Whites	20	9	4	7	31
HEY Jets	22	9	2	11	29
Winchester Youth Blue	20	5	1	14	16
Baddesley Park Knights	20	4	3	13	15
Fawley Falcons	20	3	2	15	11
Chamberlayne Ath Black	18	1	2	15	5
St Francis Rangers	20	1	1	18	4
U10 Red (top ten)					
FC Salisbury United	22	16	4	2	52
Oakwood Lions	20	14	6	0	48
City Central	20	12	4	4	40
Winchester Youth Black	20	10	5	5	35
Salisbury City FC	22	11	2	9	35
Sholing Youth Red	22	11	2	9	35
Wyvern Saints	20	10	4	6	34
Romsey Town Cougars	20	8	7	5	31
Alresford Lions	20	7	5	8	26
AFC Hiltingbury Harriers	20	8	1	11	25

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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

Lumb ton not enough for England

ENGLAND'S 'groundhog' experience followed them all the way from Australia to Antigua as they lost a match they seemed set to win to go 1-0 down in the one-day international series against West Indies.

A century on ODI debut from 34-year-old former Hampshire player Michael Lumb appeared to be carrying England to victory as they chased 269 for six.

But instead Stuart Broad's tourists paid, among other things, for their confusion over what is and what is not a wide in this format – and the captain admits they will be revising their game plan because of it.

Dwayne Bravo (87) and Darren Sammy (61) smashed 116 runs in the last ten overs, and Broad and Tim Bresnan needed an on-pitch tutorial from umpire Marais Erasmus after he called the Yorkshireman for a wide.

Fellow seamer Chris Jordan also lost his line, in a strong crosswind at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, as West Indies recovered from 45 for four to post a target which proved beyond England, despite the heartening performance of opener Lumb (106), below.

"It was those last ten overs with the ball that really hurt us," said Broad.

"The first 40 overs with the ball, I thought, were awesome.

"I really enjoyed how the spinners reacted to being asked to do slightly different things – in the powerplay and Rooty opening up.

"It's something other countries seem to do, but we're quite 'English' about it.

"I thought the spin at the start worked really nicely and is something we can carry forward."

If that plan worked well, England's next fell flat.

"If I'm brutally honest, we had quite a strong plan to bowl wide yorkers and get the guys hitting into the big wind, and we got done a little bit by not knowing the rules, I suppose," added Broad.

"It was a bit confusing out there, but if the batsman stands outside off-stump then the line doesn't move.

"Bresy got a little bit confused as to where the line actually belonged.

"I'm still not 100 per cent sure because Marais was a little bit unsure as well, I think.

"I need to clarify it myself ... but you might not see a lot of wide yorkers on Sunday."

Much of what Broad saw pleased him, but an inability to close out the match – as so often in Australia this winter – did not.

He said: "The two debutants got us in a very winnable position and, a bit like Adelaide, we managed to lose when we should have won.

"We got stuck at the end ... we've lost by 16 runs and it feels like we didn't score off the last ten overs. The guys are really disappointed.

"When Lumby got his hundred, we didn't see the game even being close – let alone losing."

Lumb carried them as far as 180 for three, with 13 overs left.

"A debut hundred is a fantastic achievement," said the captain.

"I've been very pleased with a lot of things today, but we just fell at that final hurdle again."

DON'T GIVE UP THE

Simon Walter
simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk
CRICKET REPORTER

BUBBLE football, boxing, rugby and, earlier this week, a day working behind the scenes at The Ageas Bowl.

It has not been a conventional pre-season for Hampshire's cricketers.

But normality will soon be restored.

Next weekend they depart for Barbados for the fourth successive year.

The two-and-a-half week tour includes a one-day game against Derbyshire (Kensington Oval, March 15) followed by a T20 competition against Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire and Derbyshire and two two-day matches against Warwickshire (Windward CC, March 18/19) and Notts (Carlton CC, March 21/22).

They will be joined in the Caribbean by Dale Benkenstein, following the former Durham captain's recent appointment as Hampshire's first-team coach.

Hampshire captain Jimmy Adams is looking forward to meeting up with the South African for the first time since they played together for the MCC in last season's curtain-raiser against county champions Warwickshire.

"He'll be a great asset for us," says Adams. "I've got to know him a little through Macca (Neil McKenzie) and Skeg (Nic Pothas) and we had a chat over a coffee before he went back out to South Africa following his appointment.

"He's obviously going to bring a wealth of experience and we're lucky to have him.

"If we hadn't got him he'd have been head hunted by another county. He's been seen as a high-potential coach for a while and I'm sure he'll be even more highly regarded down the line.

"This is the start of a great career for him."

The additions of overseas pair Kyle Abbott, the South African seamer, and Glenn Maxwell are another boon.

"We're delighted Kyle's going to be with us for a decent amount of time, he comes exceptionally highly rated and Maxi's always been keen to return, we know what he's capable of in all cricket and are really happy to have him back," said Adams. "We feel we've recruited pretty well."

It has almost become tradition for Hampshire's bowlers to head out to Barbados earlier than the batters, but Chris Wood will not be travelling as he is making his way back from micro fracture surgery on his right knee.

James Tomlinson, Hampshire's leading wicket taker in the Championship last season, will not be there throughout.

"Woody's the only one not coming because of his knee rehab and Tommo's only coming for part of it," said Adams. "He has to be careful how he goes because the different, harder surfaces out in Barbados have caused him trouble before.

"Otherwise, we're taking a full complement and we're looking forward to it."

The start of Hampshire's Barbados tour will coincide with England'sT20 internationals against the West Indies at the Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, where they play Derbyshire in their opening game two days after the final match of England's tour.

It was thought that Danny Briggs would miss Hampshire's tour because of England's commitments in the Caribbean and at the World T20, before Lancashire's Steven Parry was preferred.

Briggs' omission comes after he conceded 53 runs from his four overs against Australia in Hobart at the end of January, his seventh T20 international since making his debut 18 months ago

"I think it's tough on Danny, sud-

PRE-SEASON LESSON: Matt Coles meets students from Southampton's Inspire Academy who are working on a project at The Ageas Bowl. Coles, also pictured right, was one of several Hampshire players who took on different roles at the stadium this week as part of a job-swap day.

CRICKET STORY TO TELL? CALL SIMON WALTER ON

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

DAY JOB, LADS!

Lewis McManus, Adam Wheater, David Balcombe and Matt Coles with London Irish players Bryn Evans, Andrew Fenby, Alex Lewington, Richard Palframan and forwards coach Glenn Delaney.

DIFFERENT SPORTS: Jimmy Adams, above left, tries his hand at boxing while David Balcombe and Lewis McManus, right, face up during a rugby session.

JOB SWAP: James Tomlinson finds out what Ageas Bowl office staff do during the day earlier this week.

denly he's gone from being in a lot of squads to none at all. I just hope things have been discussed with him because it didn't look like he bowled too badly in that game, they just went after him," said Adams.

Briggs' England omission at least means Hampshire should have him throughout the season, which sees the T20 tournament begin earlier than ever (against Glamorgan at the Ageas Bowl on May 16) and played mostly on Friday nights.

"I'll reserve judgement on the new format for now," said Adams, whose reluctance to captain Hampshire in all forms means the county are yet to finalise their T20 captain (see today's *Daily Echo*).

"A lot of cricket is being squeezed in but the new format certainly makes things tricky in terms of finding overseas players.

"Fingers crossed, it will be a draw for the supporters."

In the meantime, Adams is just looking forward to playing cricket again, having worked with the Ageas Bowl's conference and banqueting department with Liam Dawson on Wednesday morning.

"We try and do something different every Wednesday and this week we all took on a few of the other jobs that are done around the ground," said Adams. "It was hard work! Tommo and Briggsy were in the ticket office, a few worked with the groundstaff and others were in the kitchen.

"It doesn't do any harm to get away from cricket – it helps the boys realise how lucky we are to be doing what we're doing."

BOOK of the WEEK

Marvellous: the Marvin Hagler Story
By Damien & Brian Hughes

Sports book of the month price: £6.29 saving 30% on rrp

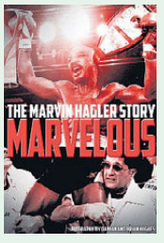
HARRY Carpenter, Britain's finest boxing commentator, described the aftermath of the fearsome contest between the then world middleweight champion Alan Minter and his challenger, Marvin Hagler, as a low-point in his commentating career.

The pair staged a short, but savage contest at Wembley Arena in September 1980 following a clutch of injudicious comments – by both men – which fanned ugly racial feeling among a small group of spectators. When the referee stopped the fight in the third round (Minter was by then blinded by his own blood), beer cans and bottles rained down on the ring and chaos ensued.

Hagler had won the world title, which he believed was his destiny. Unlike many of those who would follow him, Hagler had achieved success the hard way: it took him 50 fights to claim the world crown.

Nor did he take his foot off the gas following the disgraceful scenes in London, successfully defending his world middleweight title 12 times. Before he stepped into the ring against Minter, 'Marvellous Marvin' had not lost a fight since September 1976; he would remain undefeated until April 1987.

Marvellous is a compelling story, one which wastes little time on flowery introductions before transporting the reader back to 1980 and the build-up to the Wembley bout.



As *Marvellous* points out on numerous occasions, Hagler's pugilistic style was not what anyone could describe as classical, but was he supremely effective.

His appearance was probably enough to sow doubts into the mind of several opponents. He could punch with incredible power, but, as his fight in Las Vegas in 1985 against Tommy Hearns showed, he much preferred to mix-it inside where he could rough up opponents, throw low blows, use his elbows and, ideally, rub his shaven skull into their freshly-opened wounds.

Boxing was a dirty game, especially at professional level, and particularly during the seventies and eighties. Hagler understood this and preferred not to talk with, nor shake the hands of opponents before a fight, ostensibly because he had his sights set on destroying them in the ring.

This well-written biography propels the reader through Hagler's career in double-quick time, up to the point where he lost, in extremely controversial circumstances, to Sugar Ray Leonard. At a shade over 250 pages, it leaves the reader wanting more of the same from the brothers who have authored an engrossing read.

QUIZ QUESTION:

We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of *MARVELLOUS: THE MARVIN HAGLER STORY* to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website (*sportsbookofthemonth.com*) and answer the following question:

Who is the current WBA world middleweight boxing champion?

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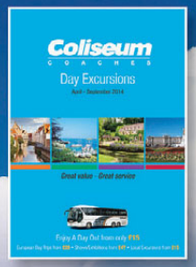

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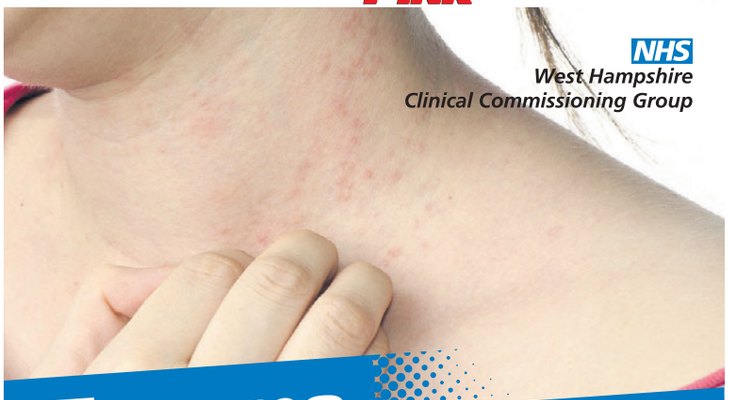

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Barclays Premier League

Everton ..... 1 **West Ham** 0
Lukaku 81
HT 0-0 Att 38,286

Fulham ..... 1 **Chelsea** 3
Heitinga 74 Schurrle 52,65,69
HT 0-0

Hull ..... 1 **Newcastle** 4
Davies 46 Sissoko 10,55, Remy 42
Anita 90
HT 0-2 Att 24,903

SAINTS ..... L **Liverpool** L
HT L-L

Stoke ..... 1 **Arsenal** 0
Walters 76 pen
HT 0-0 Att 26,711

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Chelsea	28	12	2	0	29	9	7	4	3	23	13	63
Arsenal	28	10	3	1	26	7	8	2	4	26	21	59
Man City	26	12	0	1	43	9	6	3	4	26	18	57
Liverpool	27	12	1	1	42	12	5	4	4	28	23	56
Spurs	27	6	3	4	15	18	9	2	3	21	15	50
Everton	27	9	3	1	24	10	4	6	4	14	17	48
Man Utd	27	6	3	4	18	12	7	3	4	25	19	45
Newcastle	28	6	3	5	18	19	7	1	6	19	20	43
SAINTS	**27**	**5**	**5**	**3**	**21**	**16**	**5**	**4**	**5**	**17**	**16**	**39**
West Ham	28	5	3	6	20	20	3	4	7	11	15	31
Hull	28	5	4	5	17	14	3	2	9	13	21	30
Stoke	28	6	6	2	18	14	1	3	10	10	28	30
Swansea	27	4	4	5	24	20	3	3	8	12	20	28
A. Villa	27	3	2	8	12	21	4	5	5	15	16	28
Norwich	27	5	5	4	12	11	2	2	9	8	28	28
Crystal P	26	6	2	6	13	17	2	0	10	5	19	26
W.B.A.	27	3	7	4	16	16	1	6	6	15	23	25
Sunderlnd	26	3	2	8	13	21	3	4	6	13	21	24
Cardiff	27	4	4	6	12	22	1	3	9	7	26	22
Fulham	28	3	1	10	17	31	3	2	9	11	31	21

SkyBet Championship

Bolton ..... 4 **Blackburn** 0
Medo 23, Mason 45
Spearing 47, Moritz 90
HT 2-0 Att 17,541

CHERRIES ..... 5 **Doncaster** 0
Kermorgant 26,44,73
Arter 50,82
HT 2-0 Att 8,983

Burnley ..... 2 **Derby Cty** 0
Jones 29
Marney 68
HT 1-0 Att 17,285

Huddersfld ..... 5 **Barnsley** 0
Southern 29, Ward 32
Hammill 48, Clayton 58 pen
Scannell 86
HT 2-0 Att 14,236

Ipswich ..... 1 **Birminghm** 0
Murphy 38
HT 1-0 Att 15,596

Leicester ..... 3 **Charlton** 0
Vardy 9, Drinkwater 48
Nugent 64
HT 1-0 Att 24,742

Millwall ..... 0 **Brighton** 1
Lopez 39 pen
HT 0-1

Nottm For ..... 1 **Wigan** 4
Paterson 54 Waghorn 36, Boyce 66
McArthur 71, Gomez 90
HT 0-1 Att 23,114

Q.P.R. ..... 1 **Leeds Utd** 1
Jenas 44 McCormack 14
HT 1-1 Att 16,448

Reading ..... 1 **Yeovil** 1
Lawrence 69 og Duffy 20
HT 0-1 Att 18,697

Sheff Wed ..... 1 **Middlesbro** 0
Nuhiu 87 pen
HT 0-0 Att 20,743

Watford ..... 4 **Blackpool** 0
Ranegie 15,39
Deeney 35,74
HT 3-0 Att 14,586

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leicester	33	13	3	1	37	15	10	2	4	25	17	74
Burnley	33	11	6	0	30	10	7	6	3	22	16	66
Derby Cty	33	9	3	4	29	20	9	4	4	31	22	61
Q.P.R.	32	11	4	2	25	13	5	5	5	13	13	57
Nottm For	33	9	5	3	32	21	5	8	3	22	18	55
Wigan	32	8	5	2	23	14	7	2	8	18	16	52
Reading	33	7	6	4	31	18	7	3	6	20	20	51
Brighton	32	7	5	4	22	15	6	5	5	12	12	49
Ipswich	33	9	4	4	25	15	3	8	5	19	22	48
Blackburn	32	8	4	3	21	11	4	6	7	17	28	46
Watford	33	8	3	6	25	16	3	9	4	23	23	45
Leeds Utd	32	7	4	4	26	15	5	4	8	18	25	44
Huddersfld	33	8	4	5	29	20	4	3	9	16	24	43
Middlesbro	33	6	8	2	23	12	3	5	9	18	25	40
Sheff Wed	32	6	3	7	24	19	3	9	4	15	19	39
CHERRIES	**32**	**7**	**4**	**6**	**25**	**19**	**3**	**5**	**7**	**17**	**33**	**39**
Birminghm	33	2	7	7	20	21	7	2	8	19	21	36
Bolton	33	4	9	4	24	17	4	3	9	17	32	36
Blackpool	33	5	6	5	16	17	3	5	9	13	31	35
Doncaster	33	6	4	6	19	21	1	5	11	9	33	30
Millwall	33	5	5	7	19	26	1	5	10	12	35	28
Charlton	30	4	4	6	12	16	2	5	9	12	25	27
Yeovil	32	3	4	9	11	18	3	4	9	17	30	26
Barnsley	32	4	7	5	19	27	1	4	11	11	29	26

SkyBet League One

Bradford ..... 2 **Stevenage** 3
Reach 11 Zoko 23
Hanson 42 Freeman 65,87
HT 2-1 Att 13,033

Bristol C ..... 2 **Gillingham** 1
Baldock 27 Lee 65
Gillett 83
HT 1-0 Att 11,422

Carlisle ..... 0 **Brentford** 0
HT 0-0 Att 3,984

Crawley ..... 1 **Peterboro** 0
Tubbs 86 pen
HT 0-0 Att 3,663

Crewe ..... 1 **Swindon** 1
Oliver 77 Harley 48
HT 0-0 Att 4,433

Leyton O ..... 2 **Colchester** 1
Mooney 21 Bean 79
Odubajo 83
HT 1-0 Att 6,323

M K Dons ..... 0 **Sheff Utd** 1
Scougall 23
HT 0-1 Att 9,192

Preston ..... 2 **Walsall** 1
Downing 3 og Mantom 5
Wright 29
HT 2-1 Att 10,034

Rotherham ..... 6 **Notts Cnty** 0
Tavernier 12
Vuckic 16,60
Revell 26
Agard 29 pen
Hitchcock 83
HT 4-0 Att 8,383

Tranmere ..... 2 **Oldham** 2
Koumas 31 Wesolowski 12
Lowe 76 Ridehalgh 59 og
HT 1-1 Att 5,061

Wolves ..... 3 **Port Vale** 0
Sako 52
Dicko 73,75
HT 0-0 Att 21,929

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wolves	32	13	3	2	33	9	8	4	2	24	11	70
Leyton O	34	11	2	4	34	16	10	5	2	34	17	70
Brentford	32	12	1	3	30	15	8	6	2	24	16	67
Preston	34	7	8	2	26	21	10	5	2	22	13	64
Rotherham	33	7	7	3	35	26	10	3	3	29	17	61
Peterboro	32	9	2	4	20	15	7	2	8	31	27	52
Swindon	34	10	3	3	32	18	3	5	10	19	27	47
Walsall	33	6	4	6	17	20	6	7	4	21	13	47
M K Dons	34	8	4	5	26	19	5	3	9	22	27	46
Port Vale	33	8	3	5	25	22	5	1	11	19	30	43
Bradford	33	6	8	4	29	20	3	6	6	16	21	41
Sheff Utd	32	7	5	3	23	14	4	3	10	11	24	41
Crawley	28	6	4	4	14	15	3	7	4	19	21	38
Oldham	34	6	4	6	19	21	4	4	10	20	27	38
Gillingham	34	7	4	6	23	21	4	1	12	20	36	38
Coventry	31	7	4	4	33	31	6	4	6	26	25	37
Carlisle	33	7	3	8	25	30	3	4	8	12	24	37
Tranmere	33	4	6	7	23	32	5	3	8	17	25	36
Colchester	31	5	3	7	19	20	3	8	5	18	21	35
Bristol C	34	5	7	6	26	26	2	7	7	23	30	35
Crewe	34	6	5	6	21	25	3	3	11	17	38	35
Shrewsbry	32	4	6	7	13	16	3	4	8	18	27	31
Stevenage	32	5	2	8	16	20	4	2	11	16	32	31
Notts Cnty	34	7	1	8	26	22	2	2	14	16	39	30

*Coventry deducted 10 points

SkyBet League Two

Burton Albion ..... 2 **Acc Stanley** 1
Kee 34,80 pen Winnard 69
HT 1-0 Att 2,368

Cheltnham ..... 2 **Bury** 1
Vincent 18 Platt 16
Harrison 82
HT 1-1 Att 2,737

Dagenham ..... 0 **Mansfield** 0
HT 0-0 Att 1,377

Fleetwood T ..... 0 **AFC Wimbledon** 0
HT 0-0 Att 2,420

Hartlepool ..... 3 **Torquay** 0
Barmby 31
James 54
Harewood 64
HT 1-0 Att 3,437

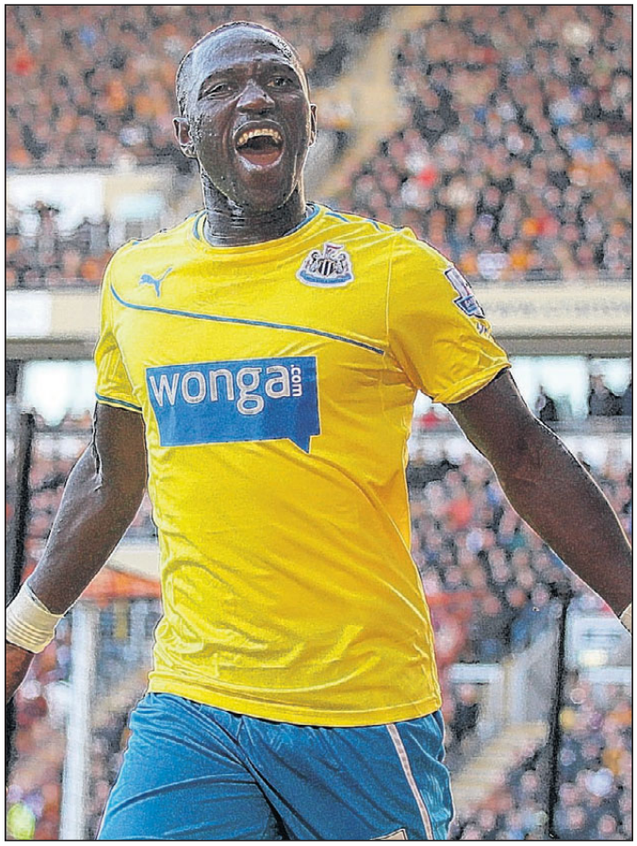
Newport County 2 **Scunthorpe** 2
Minshull 25 Madden 61
Zebroski 90 Syers 83
HT 1-0 Att 2,782

Northmptn ..... 0 **Bristol R** 0
HT 0-0 Att 5,058

Plymouth ..... 5 **Morecambe** 0
Berry 5
Alessandra 40,90
Nelson 77
Gurrieri 87
HT 2-0 Att 6,827

Rochdale ..... 3 **Oxford Utd** 0
Hogan 45,50,62
HT 1-0 Att 3,429

Southend ..... 1 **Wycombe** 1
Corr 63 Bentley 70 og
HT 0-0 Att 5,502



GET IN: Moussa Sissoko celebrates netting for Newcastle in his side's win over Hull.

York ..... 2 **Exeter** 1
McCombe 17 Bennett 29
Coulson 27
HT 2-1 Att 3,212

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Chesterfld	33	9	6	2	28	13	8	4	4	27	17	61
Scunthorpe	34	8	6	2	23	12	7	9	2	30	22	60
Rochdale	33	12	2	4	35	18	6	4	5	18	18	60
Burton Alb	34	8	5	5	21	19	7	6	3	17	15	56
Oxford Utd	34	7	5	5	20	15	7	8	2	26	16	55
Fleetwood T	33	8	3	6	31	25	8	2	6	17	14	53
Southend	34	7	6	4	23	15	6	5	6	18	17	50
Plymouth	33	7	6	4	18	16	6	3	7	20	20	48
Hartlepool	34	8	3	6	21	17	4	6	7	18	21	45
York	34	6	7	4	17	14	4	6	7	23	24	43
Newport C	31	8	2	4	28	18	3	8	6	13	22	43
Wimbledon	34	7	4	6	20	19	4	5	8	14	20	42
Cheltnham	33	4	8	5	23	25	6	4	6	16	20	42
Dagenham	33	7	5	5	22	16	3	6	7	17	25	41
Morecambe	33	5	7	5	22	21	5	3	8	14	26	40
Bury	32	5	8	3	18	15	4	4	8	20	23	39
Bristol R	33	8	5	3	22	13	1	7	9	9	20	39
Exeter	34	4	4	8	13	20	6	5	7	26	25	39
POMPEY	**33**	**7**	**3**	**7**	**19**	**19**	**2**	**9**	**5**	**18**	**29**	**39**
Mansfield	34	4	5	7	20	25	5	7	6	14	22	39
Wycombe	33	4	5	8	14	20	5	6	5	22	20	38
Acc Stanley	33	3	7	6	20	22	6	3	8	16	22	37
Northmptn	33	5	5	6	17	21	3	4	10	10	22	33
Torquay	33	2	8	6	14	22	5	1	11	17	29	30

Scottish Premiership

Aberdeen ..... 1 **St Johnstn** 0
Jack 8
HT 1-0 Att 11,487

Celtic ..... 5 **Inverness CT** 0
Griffiths 12,57,86
Mulgrew 22
Commons 78
HT 2-0

Motherwell ..... 4 **Hearts** 1
Vigurs 18 Paterson 69
Ainsworth 37
Sutton 65
McFadden 74
HT 2-0 Att 4,914

Ross Cnty ..... 1 **Partick** 1
Brittain 14 Higginbotham 9
HT 1-1 Att 3,441

St Mirren ..... 2 **Kilmarnock** 0
Newton 79
Wylde 88
HT 0-0 Att 4,650

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Celtic	28	12	2	0	32	6	12	1	1	36	8	75
Aberdeen	28	9	1	4	16	9	8	2	4	24	17	54
Motherwell	27	9	1	3	27	21	7	1	6	16	19	50
Dundee Utd	27	8	2	3	29	13	4	6	4	20	19	44
Inverness CT	26	6	2	4	19	11	7	3	4	14	15	44
St Johnstn	27	8	2	4	27	11	2	3	8	7	20	35
Hibernian	27	4	5	6	15	20	4	3	5	10	12	32
Kilmarnock	28	5	3	6	18	21	2	3	9	15	26	27
St Mirren	28	4	6	4	16	16	3	0	11	11	28	27
Partick	28	1	7	6	12	23	4	4	6	17	22	26
Ross Cnty	28	6	1	8	20	25	1	4	8	13	25	26
Hearts	28	3	2	8	8	22	2	4	9	15	28	6

*Hearts deducted 15 points

Scottish Championship

Alloa ..... 0 **Hamilton** 3
Dundee ..... 2 **Morton** 0
Livingston ..... 1 **Cowdenbth** 0
Queen Sth ..... 3 **Dumbarton** 1
Raith ..... 2 **Falkirk** 4

Scottish League One

Airdrieonians ..... 3 **Ayr Utd** 0
Brechin ..... 2 **Arbroath** 4
East Fife ..... 0 **Rangers** 1
Stenhsmuir ..... 4 **Forfar** 1
Stranraer ..... 3 **Dunfrmline** 1

Scottish League Two

Annan Athletic ..... 4 **Berwick** 0
Clyde ..... 4 **Elgin** 0
Montrose ..... 2 **Albion R** 1
Peterhead ..... 4 **E Stirling** 0
Stirling A ..... 2 **Queen Park** 2

Grey panels indicate High-scoring games

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
L	1	1	1	1	L	1	1	L	L	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	●	●	1	1	1	1	2	L	1	●	1	1	1	1	●	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	●	2	1	1	●	1	1	1	1	1
L	2	2	1	●	L	2	2	L	L	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	●	1	2	1	1	1	2	L	2	2	1	1	1	1	●	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	●

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Local non-league results

SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Premier: Aldershot 2 Lincoln City 3
Barnet 1 Woking 3
Braintree Town 2 Hyde 1
Cambridge Utd 5 Kidderminster 1
Chester 3 Nuneaton 3
Halifax 2 Tamworth 0
Gateshead 1 Forest Green 1
Grimsby 3 Salisbury 0
Hereford 0 Wrexham 2
Luton 3 Alfreton Town 0
Southport 3 Dartford 0
Welling 1 Macclesfield 0
South: Basingstoke 2 Maidenhead 2
Bishops Stortford pp Eastbourne Borough
Boreham Wood 7 Tonbridge Angels 0
Bromley 2 Bath City 2
Dorchester 1 Staines 1
Dover 3 Gosport Borough 0
Eastleigh 3 Weston-super-Mare 1
Ebbsfleet 3 Farnborough 0
Hayes & Yeading 0 Havant & Waterlooville 1
Sutton 2 Chelmsford 0
Whitehawk 0 Concord Rangers 2
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Arlesey 0 Bashley 1
Banbury 3 AFC Totton 4
Chippenham 2 Burnham 1
Corby 3 Bideford 0
Frome Town 2 Hitchin 0
Poole Town pp Stourbridge
Redditch Utd 1 Hemel Hempstead 0
St Albans 1 Truro 3
St Neots 3 Hungerford 0
Weymouth 2 Biggleswade 2
Division One South & West: Clevedon 0 Didcot 2
Evesham 3 Bridgwater 2
Guildford 1 Bishops Cleeve 0
Mangotsfield 1 Wimborne 0
Merthyr Town 3 Cirencester 1
North Leigh 2 Shortwood Utd 2
Stratford 2 Fleet Town 2
Swindon Supermarine 4 Godalming 1
Taunton 1 Paulton Rovers 1
Thatcham 1 Cinderford 3
Tiverton 1 Yate 0
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester 0 Folland Sports 2
Bemerton HH 4 Fareham 2
Blackfield & Langley 1 Totton & Eling 0
Christchurch pp Horndean
Lymington Town 2 Alresford 3
Moneyfields pp Newport IoW
Romsey 1 Bournemouth Poppies 1
Sholing 4 Hamworthy Utd 0
Whitchurch pp Winchester City
Division One: Andover Town 2 New Milton 0
Fleet Spurs 4 Hayling Utd 0
Hythe & Dibden 1 Cowes Sports 2
Laverstock & Ford pp Petersfield
Pewsey Vale pp Amesbury
Tadley Calleva 2 Ringwood 1
Team Solent 9 East Cowes Vics 1
US Portsmouth pp Andover New Street
HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP
Semi-finals: Overton Utd 1 Cadnam Utd 3
Richmond Park CC 2 Baffins Milton Rovers 1
ALDERSHOT INTERMEDIATE CUP
Semi-final: Four Marks 0 Hale Rovers 4
ALDERSHOT JUNIOR CUP
Quarter-final: Bagshot Res 1 Liphook Utd Res 0
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Aldermaston pp Liss Athletic
AFC Stoneham 2 Colden Common 5
Bournemouth Sports 0 Fleetlands 3
Hedge End Rangers pp QK Southampton
Locks Heath pp Clanfield
Paulsgrove 1 Liphook Utd 2
Winchester Castle 1 Headley Utd 0
Division One: Andover Lions 5 Durley 0
Bush Hill pp Infinity
Lyndhurst pp Michelmersh & Timsbury
Upham 2 Broughton 0
Combination: Clanfield 0 Winchester Castle 2
Fleetlands pp AFC Stoneham
Hamble Club 5 Paulsgrove 0
Liss Athletic pp Overton
Michelmersh & Timsbury 0 Otterbourne 5
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Totton 3 Sholing 3
Wimborne 1 Bemerton HH 0
Division One West: East Cowes Vics 1 Fawley AFC 1
Ringwood 0 Team Solent 0
Verwood pp Romsey
Division One East: Alresford 3 US Portsmouth 1
Folland Sports pp Alton
Horndean pp Tadley Calleva
Newport IoW pp Locks Heath
Petersfield pp Colden Common
DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE
Premier: Comrades 3 AFC Hiltingbury 0
Senior 1: BTC Soton Res 2 Burridge AFC 0
Solent Saints 4 Riverside 1